

Grace Lutheran Church, Ph. #920-682-7377 [gracelutheran@tm.net](mailto:gracelutheran@tm.net)  
Guest Preacher—Pastor Rik Krahn from MLHS  
First Sunday of End Time / Reformation Sunday - October 25 & 26, 2020  
**“Lord, Keep Us Faithful to Your Word!”**

*Lord, keep us faithful to your Word! The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church emphasizes the true Church's unfailing reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to it in the face of persecution. We pray that the Lord give us the strength to be faithful and the peace of knowing our lives are safe in his hands.*

**We live-stream our 8:00am service.**

Go to our website [www.gracelutheran-church.com](http://www.gracelutheran-church.com) and click on the “Live Stream Video” link. Livestreaming will begin about 5 minutes prior to the start of worship. This recording is also archived for future viewing.

**SERVICE OF THE WORD (page 38)**

**HYMN #200: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: *Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.***

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: *Amen.***

**PRAYER AND PRAISE**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**OH, TASTE AND SEE** *ALL sing*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: *Amen. ALL sing***

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST LESSON: DANIEL 6:10-12, 16-23**

They persecuted Daniel because he prayed in his home. Daniel made a bold confession and faithful witness on his knees. He was faithful, even in the face of certain persecution. For the Christian, most persecution doesn't come from public stands on God's Word, but from private acts like Daniel. We live our faith and are persecuted because of it. We don't face a den of lions, but persecution can still come. We lose relationships because of moral purity; we lose promotions because of worship priorities; we lose friendships because we won't join in sinful talking or walking. Such faithfulness to God's Word requires trust. Is your God able to rescue you? Yes, he is. God shut the lions' mouths to show his Church of all the ages that God is able to guard and keep his people. You can trust him and be faithful to his Word in the face of any persecution.

**PSALM 46 (page 84)** *ALL sing REFRAIN and speak the verses responsively*

**SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-18 (sermon)**

Paul learned firsthand that faithfulness to the Word of God brought persecution. His former brothers had abandoned him; his enemies had not stopped hounding him. Though he was by himself, Paul was never alone. Jesus stayed by his side. Paul was confident that God would rescue him - not necessarily from every danger, but certainly through danger. Paul knew that even if he died for Christ, God would bring him to heaven. Lord, keep us faithful to your word in the face of any persecution! To you be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**VERSE OF THE DAY:** *ALL speak*

**Alleluia. If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia.** (John 8:31,32)

**THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:16-23**

The story of faithfulness to the Word of God has always been the story of persecution. After all, Jesus promised it! Who would send defenseless sheep into a world of ravenous wolves? It makes no sense—unless you are the Good Shepherd who wants his sheep to utterly depend on him. Our trust in Jesus doesn't guarantee an absence of persecution, but faithfulness in spite of it. We will witness to the Word of God before anyone. Jesus promised, "He who stands firm to the end will be saved." What comfort that must have been for Martin Luther, whose faithful witness caused him to be excommunicated from his church, and outlawed by his ruler.

P: This is the gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ! ALL sing**

**HYMN #203: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"**

**SERMON** based on *Second Lesson 2 Timothy 4:9-18*

**HYMN #289: "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen. Amen. Amen. ALL sing**

**HYMN #293: "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"**

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- **Thank you to our guest preacher this weekend, Pastor Rik Krahn from MLHS.**
- **Food Drive for Peter's Pantry continues thru 11/29:** Please place your donations into the bin in the fellowship hall. There are lists on the table for you of suggested items needed as well as what NOT to donate. Thank you!
- **Bible Class themes:** Today, 9:20am: "Equipped for Peacemaking", Tue, 6:30 / Wed, 1:30: "Hard Teachings"
- **We ask for prayers for Pastor Pankow and his family on the death of Pastor's mother, Winnie Pankow.**