

Grace Lutheran Church, Ph. #920-682-7377 [gracelutheran@tm.net](mailto:gracelutheran@tm.net)

Pastor Tom Pankow - [gracepastor@tm.net](mailto:gracepastor@tm.net)

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost - September 20 & 21, 2020

**“Lord, Help Me Care Enough to Confront!”**

**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 will also be archived for future viewing.

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT** (page 26 in hymnal)

**HYMN #230: “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”** ALL sing

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** ALL speak

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

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

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy; hear our prayer, O Lord. C: **Lord have mercy.** (sing)

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ. C: **Christ, have mercy.** (sing)

P: For the well being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise; hear our prayer, O Lord. C: **Lord, have mercy.** (sing)

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: **Amen** (sing)

**O LORD, OUR LORD—**ALL sing

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Let us pray. Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ALL sing

### **GOD’S WORD**

#### **FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11 (EHV)**

No one wants to wake up their next door neighbor at 6:00am on a Saturday. But if his house were burning, and you let him sleep, you are not just loveless and careless. You are a killer. In the same way God drops on us the heavy message of being a watchman for our brother - a fellow Christian. God’s judgment is both clear and severe. The Lord speaks to our humbled hearts and reminds us why he has given us the job of lovingly warning the fallen believer. He is gracious and desires to save all. If you wake your neighbor and he safely flees his burning home, you rejoice together. May our task of leading others to repent always be one done with responsibility and joy.

**PSALM 51a** (page 86 in hymnal) ALL sing **REFRAIN** and speak the verses responsively

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:1-10 (EHV)**

Paul takes up the issue of government and the Christian's relationship to it. A Christian is a citizen of two kingdoms. The first part of this text is the definitive section of Scripture on our role as citizens of an earthly kingdom. Yet the latter part helps us see we owe our neighbor a debt of love. Keeping the commandments fulfills the law of love. "Love does no harm to its neighbor."

**VERSE OF THE DAY: *Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia* ALL speak**

## **GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18:15-20 (EHV)**

The Christian and the Church are a fallen sinner's only life line. Satan tries to make Christian discipline seem like the height of hypocrisy or meddling. But the devil just wants the fallen Christian's sins bound to him for an eternity in hell. Satan only wants more to join him in misery and agony. Only love could lead the Christian and the Church to go to a fallen brother. Only love led our Savior to command it. And he shows us how to do it. First, privately, so that offense and embarrassment might be contained, and pardon and forgiveness might all the more readily flow. Then with two or three, that the matter be addressed without everybody's knowledge. Finally, also in love, the Church calls and, if necessary, let's the impenitent soul know they have separated themselves from God and his Church. Such "tough love" has one goal, that a wandering sheep return to the Good Shepherd.

P: This is the gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON—based on Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:15-20**

## **NICENE CREED**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C: *Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.***

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: *Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.***

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions. (*Silent prayer*)

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **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" ALL sing**

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***This weekend, we return to our normal Sunday Service schedule: Two services at 8:00 (live streamed) & 10:45am with Sunday School & Adult Bible Class held between services. We also continue with our Monday night service at 6:30pm***

***NEW Adult Bible Study, "Christians in Conflict": This is an 8 week series and focuses on dealing with conflicts that naturally arise between people from a Biblical perspective. We meet today between services and again on Tuesday, 6:30pm & Wednesday, 1:30pm. Today's topic is "What Causes Conflict". This week's topic is "How We Deal with Conflict". Please join us on Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon or Sunday morning.***