

Grace Lutheran Church
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25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“LIVE A LIFE OF
STARTLING
GENEROSITY”



November 10 & 11, 2024

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God’s Word, and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask.

Listening Assist aids are available—ask an usher. A Parents’ Room is available next to the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall. Come worship with us again!

Perhaps you have heard the axiom, “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” In other words, while you still can, use what you have in order to enjoy life to the fullest. If this life is all there is, St. Paul agrees that would be a good philosophy. Paul wrote, “If the dead are not raised, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die’” (1 Corinthians 15:32). However, note the “if.” Paul was saying that the epicurean approach to life makes sense only if this life is all we have. But it isn’t. Jesus will raise us from the dead and take us to live in his home, a place of perfect comfort and beauty. Knowing that, we are set free from the need to live a self-indulgent life now. Instead, we can be generous people, using the wealth that God has given us to serve both him and others. We can live a life of startling generosity.

Jesus’ Lambs of Grace: Praise Him (Sunday only)

The Gift of the Gospel

Romans 1:16

PASTOR: Dear friends, the gospel is good news because through it God delivers his love and forgiveness to us, the power to be his people, and a resolve to share this good news with others.

CONGREGATION: So we are not ashamed of this gospel.

God insists in his Bible, "...you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air.... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved."
(Eph 2:1,2,4,5)

The gospel is the power of God for my salvation.

Jesus said, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."
(Lk 24:46-48)

The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

We say with the Apostle Paul, "When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched person I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
(Romans 7:21-25)

The gospel is the power that overcomes the devil, the world, and our own sinful weakness.

Jesus said, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."
(Mark 8:38)

We are not ashamed of the gospel.

And Paul wrote, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but

because of his own purpose and grace.”

(2 Timothy 1:7-9)

We are not ashamed of the gospel and we will testify about our Lord and his mighty deeds.

So, Where Have We Sinned?

Dear friends in Jesus, we are not ashamed of the gospel. And yet we've lived and acted as if we are. Let's repent of our sins together, rejoice in the comfort of God's powerful pardon, and recommit ourselves to the tasks he gives us.

Holy and merciful Father we confess that we are by nature sinful and that we have disobeyed you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this we deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But we are truly sorry for our sins, and trusting in our Savior Jesus Christ, we pray: Lord, have mercy on us poor sinners!

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. It's the guarantee of freedom. The certainty of forgiveness. All of your sins have been washed away in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let's praise the Lord!



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in you. Grant us so firmly to believe in your Son Jesus that our faith may never be found wanting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 17:8–16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” ¹⁰So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” ¹¹As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

¹²“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

¹³Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

¹⁵She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

111A Lord, I Must Praise You (Cantor sings 1st verse)

CW Psalter pg. 587

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 9:11

Alleluia. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion. Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 12:38–44

³⁸As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

807 All Depends on Our Possessing – st. 1,3,5,6

CW 807

Sermon

Mark 12:38-44

Give It Your All

Without Seeking Attention

With Thanks to God

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering: 584 Jesus Loves Me

CW 584

Special Prayers

Responsive Lord's Prayer

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

Thy kingdom come.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

Give us this day our daily bread.

We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

And lead us not into temptation.

And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

But deliver us from evil.

All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts “Amen,” trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

750 We Give Thee but Thine Own

CW 750

**Altar Flowers are donated by the Pearson Families,
In Memory of Don Pearson.**

Thank you to our Worship Team.

Music Leader: Cait Henning

Last week’s attendance:

Sunday - 109; Monday - 27; Total - 136