

Worship Folder



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Grace Lutheran Church

October 3-4, 2020

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## **Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement**

***“We share God’s love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world.”***

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **WELCOME**

#### **PRELUDE**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

*(the assembly stands as you are able)*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Faithful God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Our sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**C: Amen.**

*(the assembly may be seated)*

**GATHERING HYMN** “God the Sculptor of the Mountains”

*(the assembly stands as you are able)*

**GREETING**

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

P: Lord have mercy

**C: Christ have mercy**

P: Lord have mercy

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Unison*

**Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*(the assembly may be seated)*

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*(Response after first and second reading)*

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God’s loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth “wild grapes” of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. <sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? <sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or

hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

### **Psalm 80:7-15**

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.

<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O God of hosts,  
look down from heaven;**

<sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

### **Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith

in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(the assembly stands as you are able)*

**Alleluia. Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last. Alleluia.**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **Matthew 21:33-46**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” <sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(the assembly may be seated)*

## **HOMILY**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

*(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** Have mercy, O God.

*(the assembly may be seated)*

## **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(the assembly stands, as you are able, as the gifts are brought forward)*

**P:** Let us pray...Blessed are you, O God,

**C: maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.  
Prepare us for your earthly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the  
bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*(concluding)*... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...in your church without end.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(All who desire to receive Christ's presence are invited to participate in the Eucharist)*

**C:** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(the assembly may be seated)*

### **REFLECTION MUSIC**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*(the assembly stands, as you are able)*

**P:** Let us pray...We give you thanks, gracious God,

**C:** **that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

P: Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: **Amen.**

*(the assembly may be seated)*

**SENDING HYMN** “Lord Our God, with Praise We Come”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(the assembly stands, as you are able)*

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

### **PRAYERS**

Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth’s niece), Dorothy Hansen, Alecia Lewis, Don Furze, Larry Nelson, Marge Weber, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman’s Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Elaine Camp, Marty Lee, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Eric Steinke, Laura Bleau, Hazel Werblow, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich’s partner), Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David’s Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Music Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week’s Synod Prayer Partner: Saron Lutheran Church/St. Joseph, Rev. Joan Oleson.

## **FROM THE PASTOR...**

How long, O Lord?

That is the cry heard in the words in many of the lament Psalms where the Israelites are lamenting – mourning – to God all they have gone through, are going through or have yet to go through.

This is what we are feeling after 6 months of this pandemic, How long, O Lord? How much more? When will we have relief? When will it be over? Nothing in our lifetimes has prepared us for something like this.

Nerves are frayed. We are edgy. We are tired. We cannot see an end in sight right now. We want some certainty. We want to know what to expect.

Masks are a pain. Remembering to keep our distance from others is hard. Not being able to embrace others just feels wrong. Thinking about wiping down surfaces and sanitizing is tiring. Having to think about how to be safe and stay safe with so many unknowns is exhausting. Trying to evaluate risks, what is reasonable and what is too much, is perplexing. It is getting increasingly harder to follow the guidelines that are offered from the CDC and those our church Council has adopted. We all have become more lax.

As Christians, we are called to care for each other. To take care of the least of these among God's people. To help each other be safe and stay safe and feel as comfortable as possible. That means we make sacrifices for each other so we can have as much safety as possible in these times. I think we err on the side of caution, doing we can to reduce the spread and support those who are at higher risk.

As we have seen in our area in the last several weeks, the risk is still here and real in northern Michigan. The wedding in Indian River with the reception in Hillman was a significant exposure event that affected some people locally. Now with 2 students in the Alpena School System having some symptoms after contact with positive individuals this is very local and not over.

Believe me wearing a mask leading worship is a hassle. I wear it, and will continue to wear it, even though I do not have to technically. I wear one to make others as comfortable and as safe as possible as well as my contribution to what we are all going through.

*Continued on next page*

I do not even want to look ahead and try to imagine what the coming months will be like. It is almost too daunting. I need to concentrate on the next days and weeks, doing all I can to do the best in that time for everyone. I hope we all can be focused on our next steps.

I ask us all to do our best to follow guidelines and do our best for others. The guidelines and restrictions are not what we want, the way we want to live. However following them is our contribution, our sacrifice, to our communal effort to stop the spread of the virus and keep as many as possible healthy.

Thank you

Pastor Tom

### **SOCIAL - PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN WORSHIP SERVICES - A REMINDER**

The social - physical distancing set up in the sanctuary is for *people to be in the center of the center pews* and *along the wall in the side pews*. That spaces you about 6 feet from other family units/pods. Sitting with *your back against the tape* in the pews allows *people to pass up and down the aisles and be about 6 feet* from anyone in a pew. As you leave the sanctuary, please *allow the people in front of you to move out first and follow them with the appropriate distance between you*.

If you want to have a *conversation with someone* please *use the Fellowship Hall or outside* so that others may leave the Office Lobby and the building with space that allows them to be comfortable. *Thank you for observing these guidelines* and caring for others with your actions. As we continue to endure this pandemic and try to stay safe, I know we want everyone to be as comfortable and safe as possible in worship. THANK YOU. PASTOR TOM.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

### **COLLECTING MITTENS, GLOVES AND HATS**

Collecting mittens, gloves and hats for youth this winter. If you would like to donate please put items in the little house inside the doors of the church and we will distribute them in November to infants, toddlers and young school age children.

Blessings. -- Mary Lappan

## **THANK YOU**

To members of Grace Lutheran Church,

I would like to thank you not only for thinking of us during this difficult time. But also for the donation to help my family and staff while we find our way through this and try to get back and figure out our next distribution and direction to move forward. For the next directions God has for us all. Once again thank you all the members of the church. For all your prayer and thoughts and kind words

Thank you again. -- Jon Benson

## **ADULT CE WRAPS UP 21-DAY EQUITY CHALLENGE CLASSES**

Our Adult CE Class will look at the topics from the last week of the Equity Challenge seeing how we live out our faith in light of this knowledge. See you at 11:30 on Sunday morning on Zoom. If you need any information on using Zoom, please contact Pastor Tom.

## **MAKING SENSE OF MARTIN LUTHER**

### **An upcoming Adult Christian Education Series.**

Want to learn more about Martin Luther, join this 7 week series. *Making Sense of Martin Luther* uses a conversational format to explore how Luther's dynamic understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. Each class will have readings, a video and discussion as part of it. Order books through the office at \$14 each, with a deadline of October 11. It is also available as an e-book through your vendor. Classes will start on Sunday November 1. Contact Pastor Tom with any questions.

## **LITTLE FOOD PANTRY - THANK YOU!**

Our Little Food Pantry is seeing a lot of use. Things that are moving quickly are small boxes of cereal, mac and cheese, canned stews, pasta meals, peanut butter, ramen noodles, pan cake mixes, Star Kiss packets along with fresh fruits and vegetables .It's harvest time so if you have an abundance please think of the pantry. We also have a need for baby food. If you would like to donate any of these items please leave them between the entry doors at Grace Lutheran. Thank you so much in helping those in need --- Blessings, Mary Lappan

## **DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?**

Several church members have been making face masks and some are available for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

## **CHRIST IN OUR HOMES**

Devotionals for the next quarter of October - December are available in the office lobby. If you are not venturing out yet, phone the office and a copy will be mailed to you.

### **GENERAL FUND GIVING**

|                                         |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Average needed each week to meet budget | \$ 4,415.00 |
| Weekly giving - September 27            | 4,043.56    |

#### We received:

8 envelopes, 27 Simply Giving recurring payments and  
1 Give+ payment made from our website

**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Phone: Office 354-2640**

**Pastor's Home 356-8729**

**Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759**

**Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth ~**

**Web Site: [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

**E-mail: [pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

**[officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**



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