

## Sunday, September 27, 2026 - 10:45 AM



### Grace Lutheran Pastors, Staff, and Musicians

**Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb:** Senior Pastor

**Nicole Kolbe:** Office Administrator

**Jaime Core:** Youth Coordinator

**Dr. Lyn Burkett:** Youth Choir  
Director

**Molly Bleess:** Pianist and  
Celebration Choir Director

**Rev. Cole McCormick:** Associate Pastor

**Jane Reiman:** Finance Director

**Travis Anderson:** Maintenance

**Amber Hansen:** Open Door Meal Coordinator

**Joyce Jorgenson:** Chancel Choir Director

**Jen Kahler and Musicians:** Praise Band

**Carol Madsen:** Organist

**300 S. Grant Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 | [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org) | 507-238-4418**

*Please Note: Worship services are broadcast on local TV and online. Being in the Sanctuary implies consent to being on camera. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the back rows or balcony. Communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

At Grace Lutheran, we believe in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality with an open table. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcome to meet Jesus at the table. Please ask your communion server if you prefer grape juice or a gluten free communion kit. The ushers will direct you to the front for communion or you may receive communion in your pew. Jesus invites all to come and be fed, forgiven, and free!

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## **Prelude and Bell Ringing**

### **Welcome and Offering of Peace**

**P:** The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**All:** And also with you.

**P:** Welcome to Worship!

## **Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

#### **† Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

**All:** Amen.

**P:** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Compassionate God,

**All:** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**P:** Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**All:** Amen.

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† *The congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

## † Gathering Song

## *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Chorus (2x)    Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
                   Open the eyes of my heart  
                   I want to see You  
                   I want to see You

Verse            To see You high and lifted up  
                       Shining in the light of Your glory  
                       Pour out Your power and love  
                       As we sing holy holy holy

Chorus (2x)    Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
                   Open the eyes of my heart  
                   I want to see You  
                   I want to see You

Verse            To see You high and lifted up  
                       Shining in the light of Your glory  
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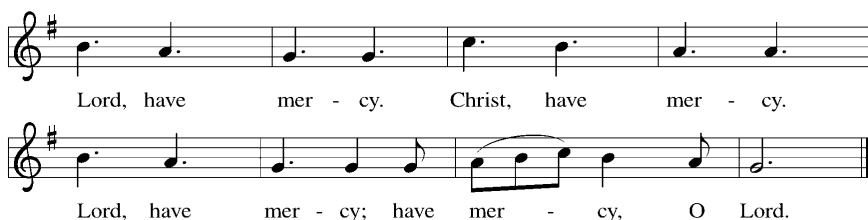
Bridge (3x)    Holy holy holy  
                       Holy holy holy  
                       Holy holy holy  
                       I want to see You

## † Greeting

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

All:    **And also with you.**

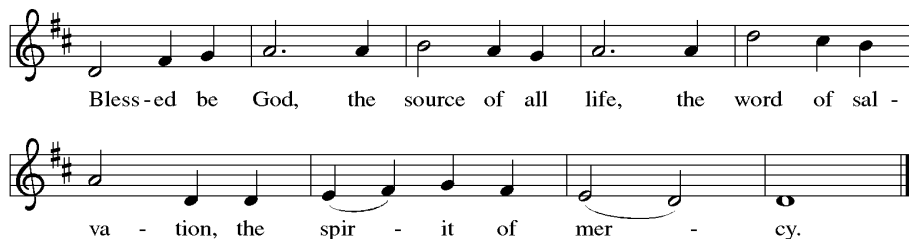
## † Kyrie



Lord, have            mer - cy.            Christ, have            mer - cy.

Lord, have            mer - cy; have            mer - cy,            O    Lord.

## ✠ Song of Praise



## Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, **you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Faith Milestone: Receiving Second Grade Bibles

### First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get

yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message (Sing)**

***Seek Ye First***

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you,  
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia

## † Gospel Acclamation

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

P: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew. **All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## † Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

<sup>23</sup> When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.    **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

**Pastor Cole McCormick**

## **✠ Song of the Day**

## **Send Me**

If it's bandaging the broken or washing filthy feet, here I am Lord send me.

If it's loving one another even when we don't agree, here I am Lord send me.

If I'm poor or if I'm wealthy, I'll serve You just the same.  
Here I am Lord send me.

On the mountain or the valley, I will choose to praise.  
Here I am Lord send me.

If I'm known by how I love, let my life reflect how much I love You. I love You.  
And before You even ask, oh my answer will be yes, 'cause I love You. I love You.

If the truth cuts like an arrow I will say it anyway, 'cause here I am Lord send me.  
If it means that they'll reject me, Lord I will still obey.  
Here I am Lord, send me.

If I'm known by how I love, let my life reflect how much I love You. I love You.  
And before You even ask, oh my answer will be yes, 'cause I love You. I love You.

When I'm standing in Your glory I'll be glad I chose to say, here I am  
Lord, send me.

Well done good and faithful, I live to hear You say.

Here I am Lord, send me.

If I'm known by how I love, let my life reflect how much I love You. I  
love You.

And before You even ask, oh my answer will be yes, 'cause I love  
You. I love You.

### † Apostles' 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 Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

### Prayers of the Church

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## **Loaves and Fishes Offering**

*Youth are invited to walk forward and place their offering into the basket. Just like the little boy who gave his 2 fish and 5 loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to feed thousands, the youth offering will go to The Grace Food Pantry. Adults are welcome to give a child an offering to bring up too.*

## **Offering Song**

## ***New Wine***

In the crushing, in the pressing  
 You are making new wine  
 In the soil I now surrender  
 You are breaking new ground  
 So I yield to You and to Your careful hand  
 When I trust You I don't need to understand

Make me a vessel, make me an offering  
 Make me whatever You want me to be  
 I came here with nothing, but all You have given me  
 Jesus, bring new wine out of me

In the crushing, in the pressing  
 You are making new wine  
 In the soil I now surrender  
 You are breaking new ground  
 So I yield to You and to Your careful hand  
 When I trust You I don't need to understand

Make me a vessel, make me an offering  
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## **† Offering Prayer**

**God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

### † Holy Communion

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### † Lords 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.**

### Communion Song

### *I Speak Jesus*

Verse 1      I just want to speak the name of Jesus  
                  over every heart and every mind,  
                  ‘Cause I know there is peace within your presence.  
                  I speak Jesus.

Verse 2      I just want to speak the name of Jesus,  
                  ‘til every dark addiction starts to break.  
                  Declaring there is hope and there is freedom,  
                  I speak Jesus

Refrain      ‘Cause your name is power, Your name is healing, Your  
                  name is life.  
                  Break every stronghold, shine through the shadows, burn  
                  like a fire.

Verse 3      I just want to speak the name of Jesus over fear and all  
                  anxiety;  
                  To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus.  
Refrain ‘Cause your name is power, Your name is healing,  
                  Your name is life.

Break every stronghold, shine through the shadows, burn like a fire.

Bridge(2x) Shout Jesus from the mountains  
 Jesus in the streets  
 Jesus in the darkness over every enemy  
 Jesus for my family  
 I speak the holy name, Jesus

Refrain 'Cause your name is power, Your name is healing, Your name is life.  
 Break every stronghold, shine through the shadows, burn like a fire.

End I just want to speak the name of Jesus, over every heart and every mind;  
 'Cause I know there is peace within your presence, I speak Jesus.

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a world in need. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

### **✠ Blessing**

P: The God of grace bless you now and forever. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

✠ **Sending Song**      *Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly*

It all comes down to this  
 What you require of me  
 Love my neighbor as myself  
 And You above all things

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God  
 In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God

It all comes down to this  
 To be Your hands and feet  
 Good news to all the world  
 The truth will set us free

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God  
 In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God

Years from now we'll see  
 The fruit our hands have sown  
 Faith just like a seed  
 The only way it grows

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God  
 In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God  
 Walk humbly, with You, God

### ✠ **Sending**

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**