Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA
Fairmont, MN

Welcome to Worship

Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.

Sunday, November 15, 2026 - 8:30 AM



Grace Lutheran Pastors, Staff, and Musicians

Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb: Senior Pastor
Rev. Cole McCormick: Associate Pastor
Nicole Kolbe: Office Administrator
Jane Reiman: Finance Director
Jaime Core: Youth Coordinator
Amber Hansen: Open Door Meal Coordinator
Tim Siegler: Maintenance Manager
Joyce Jorgenson: Chancel Choir Director
Dr. Lyn Burkett: Youth Choir Director
Molly Bleess: Pianist and Celebration Choir Director
Jen Kahler and Musicians: Praise Band
Carol Madsen: Organist

300 S. Grant Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 | 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!*

Prelude and Bell Ringing ***Offertoire*** **César Franck**

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

All: we confess that we trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

All: Amen.

✞ **Gathering Hymn** ***Holy God, We Praise Your Name*** **#414**

✞ **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** **p. 120**

✞ **Hymn of Praise** **p. 122**

✞ **Prayer of the Day**

Righteous God, our merciful master, **you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;

though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you
do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves
know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you
are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night
or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep at night, and those who
are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the
hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us,
so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
[11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed
you are doing.

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

Children's Message (Sing) ***Zacchaeus***

Zacchaeus was a wee, little man,
And a wee, little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree,
For the Lord he wanted to see.
And as the Savior came that way,
He looked up in the tree,

Spoken: And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down!"

For I'm going to your house today.
For I'm going to your house today.

✞ **Gospel Acclamation** **p. 124**

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

✞ **Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and

gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Sermon **Pastor Cole McCormick**

✞ **Hymn of the Day** ***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** **#807**

✞ **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

P: God, in your mercy…

C: **... hear our prayer.**

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 **Chancel Choir**

✞ **Offering Hymn** ***We Are an Offering*** ***#692***

✞ **Offering Prayer**

Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Holy Communion

✞ **Great Thanksgiving (sung)** **p.129**

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.

✞ **Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✞ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung in unison)** **p.130**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

✞ **Thanksgiving at the Table**

Children of all ages may receive communion or a blessing. They are also invited to take an instrument to praise God during the sending song. All are welcome at Christ's table.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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

Lamb of God **p.135**

Communion Hymn ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*** **#490**

✞ **Prayer after Communion**

P: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

All: Amen.

✞ **Blessing**

P: The holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

All: Amen.

✞ **Sending Hymn** ***Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult*** **#696**
(vs. 1, 3, and 5)

✞ **Sending**

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude ***Postludium*** **Flor Peters**

