

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, September 27, 2026 - 8:30 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 | 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!

2

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

Chancel Choir

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.**

† **Gathering Hymn**

All Are Welcome

#641

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

† **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**

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

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² 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”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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? ²⁶ 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.

²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ 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?

³⁰ 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. ³¹ 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? ³² 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹²Therefore, 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, ¹³for 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

p. 124

P: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

✠ Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [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?" ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ 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.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ 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. ³² 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

✠ Hymn of the Day

How Firm a Foundation

#796

✠ 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: Hear us, O God...

C: ...Your mercy is great.

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Chancel Choir

† Offering Hymn

Doxology

#885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

† 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

† 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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and

Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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

I Am the Bread of Life

#485

† **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 Hymn**

***What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* #774**

† **Sending**

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude