

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, October 4, 2026 - 8:30 AM

World Communion Sunday



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 Bless: 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!*

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

P: From north and south, from east and west, we come:

C: **people called to the Table where God's grace nourishes us.**

P: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

C: **God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.**

P: From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

C: **As God's people we seek to increase our faith, to offer peace to a shattered world, to feast together at one table of love. Amen.**

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**

God Loved the World (v. 1,2,5)

#323

† **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**

Holy God, from all corners of earth, your people sing your praise and prepare to feast at your Table. Thank you for the opportunity to share worship with Christians from around the globe as we sing in different languages, eat varied types of bread, and share this joyful communion with believers of different ages, races, and languages. Gather us all into your loving embrace as we rejoice, sharing Christ's love made visible in the loaf and in the cup. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

² 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 rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ 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 rotten grapes?

⁵ 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.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland; 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.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his cherished garden;

he expected justice but saw bloodshed;
righteousness but heard a cry!

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

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ 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; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ 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 ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46**

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away.

³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ 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.”

⁴² 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’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Sermon

Pastor Allison Cobb

✠ **Hymn of the Day**

Amazing Grace (v.1,3,5)

#779

✠ **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

Chancel Choir

† **Offering Hymn**

We Are an Offering

#692

† **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.

Invitation to Communion

**People will come from east and west and north and south
to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.**

**They will come with hope and they will come with doubts.
They will come with faith and they will come with fears.
They will come with love and they will come with regrets.
They will come across all sorts of barriers and boundaries.**

**Joining God's people across the globe and joining the saints of every
time and place, we come to this table today.
All are invited. God longs to feed us – all of us – with the bread of
life and the cup of salvation.**

Holy Communion

† Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

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.

† 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 are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth

and to make disciples of all nations,

and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table

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.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and

strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness

faithfully in your name. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one

with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ

comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, 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 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* #488

✠ **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 Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give your peace.

All: Amen.

✠ **Sending Hymn**

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

#313

✠ **Sending**

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude