

Grace Lutheran Church

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
August 30, 2026

“For those who want to save their  
life will lose it, and those who lose  
their life for my sake will find it.”

~ Matthew 16:25



# Service of Holy Communion 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*(\*) the assembly may stand*  
*Congregation speaks responses in bold*

## PRE-SERVICE

**"Gratitude"**

by Brandon Lake

## WELCOME

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (*Presiding Minister*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your  
Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and  
grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry  
and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have done and things we have  
failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and  
made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the  
name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen  
you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your  
hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**"Make Us One"**

by Jesus Culture

**Verse 1**

**One with the Father, one with the Spirit,  
One with the Son of God.  
One with our sister, one with our brother,  
One family by the blood.**

**Chorus 1**

**Make us one, make us one.  
Your will be done. Make us one.**

**Verse 2**

**One heart with heaven, one mind connected,  
One body unified.  
Bind us together now and forever.  
Jesus be glorified!**

**Chorus 1**

**Make us one, make us one.  
Your will be done. Make us one.  
(repeat)**

**Bridge**

**We confess all our offenses.  
We confess we've been afraid.  
We repent of all our pride.  
Let all the hurt be washed away.  
For all the wars and violence against our enemy.  
Come heal our land with Your great river.  
Restore the family, and**

**Chorus 2**

**Make us one, make us one.  
Your will be done. Make us one.  
Make us one, make us one.  
Let Your kingdom come.  
Make us one. Make us one.**

**\*GREETING** *(Presiding Minister)*

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

**KYRIE ELW PG. 138** (*Presiding Minister*)

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Presiding Minister*)

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8** *The psalm for the day is spoken responsively.*

<sup>1</sup> Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup> **Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup> **I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup> I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup> **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup> singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup> **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good;

<sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are

thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**FAMILY MESSAGE** Anne Corti, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW PG. 142**

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

<sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup> “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 798 “Will You Come and Follow Me”**

**CREED** (*Assisting Minister*)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith...

**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 INTERCESSION** (*Assisting Minister*)

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit, especially... Valerie & Andy, the families affected by the devastating Cobalt Apartments fire last week and the first responders who fought the fire. We also pray for those we name aloud now or those we name silently in our hearts.

*A brief moment of private petitions is observed.*

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE** (*Presiding Minister*)

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING MUSIC**

"Gratitude"

by Brandon Lake

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** (*Assisting Minister*)

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE** (*Presiding Minister*)

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**\*PREFACE** (*Presiding Minister*)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW PG. 144 "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE** *(Presiding Minister-spoken)*

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** *(Assisting Minister)*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (Presiding Minister)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*At Grace Lutheran, believing in Jesus Christ, we invite ALL to the sacrament of Holy Communion. Receive the host and then take one of the small cups. Wine is the outer rings and grape juice is the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available. Once communion is received, follow direction of the ushers to return to your pew leaving cups in bowls provided.*

The assembly is seated

**LAMB OF GOD ELW PG. 146**

**COMMUNION SONG**

**“Here’s My Heart”**

by Lauren Daigle

**Chorus 1**

**Here's my heart, Lord;  
Here's my heart, Lord.  
Here's my heart, Lord,  
Speak what is true.**

**Verse 1**

**'Cause I am found, I am Yours;  
I am loved, I'm made pure.  
I have life, I can breathe;  
I am healed I am free.**

**Chorus 1**

**Here's my heart, Lord;  
Here's my heart, Lord.  
Here's my heart, Lord,  
Speak what is true.**

**Verse 1**

**'Cause I am found, I am Yours;  
I am loved, I'm made pure.  
I have life, I can breathe;  
I am healed I am free.**

**Verse 2**

**'Cause You are strong, You are sure;  
You are life, You endure.  
You are good, always true;  
You are light breaking through.**

## **Chorus 2**

**Here's my heart, Lord;  
Here's my heart, Lord.  
Here's my heart, Lord,  
Speak what is true.  
Here's my life, Lord;  
Here's my life, Lord.  
Here's my life, Lord,  
Speak what is true.  
Speak what is true,  
Speak what is true.**

## **Verse 1**

**'Cause I am found, I am Yours;  
I am loved, I'm made pure.  
I have life, I can breathe;  
I am healed I am free.**

## **Verse 2**

**'Cause You are strong, You are sure;  
You are life, You endure.  
You are good, always true;  
You are light breaking through.**

## **Bridge**

**You are more than enough;  
You are here, You are love.  
You are hope, You are grace;  
You're all I have, You're everything.**

## **Chorus 2**

**Here's my heart, Lord;  
Here's my heart, Lord.  
Here's my heart, Lord,  
Speak what is true.  
Here's my life, Lord;  
Here's my life, Lord.  
Here's my life, Lord,  
Speak what is true.  
Speak what is true,  
Speak what is true.**

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING** *(Presiding Minister)*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(Assisting Minister)*

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION** *(Presiding Minister)*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

**"I Will Follow"**

by Chris Tomlin

**Intro**

**Where You go, I'll go;**

**Where You stay, I'll stay;**

**When You move, I'll move.**

**I will follow.**

**Oh,\_\_\_ oh,\_\_\_ oh.---**

**Verse 1**

**All Your ways are good,**

**All Your ways are sure;**

**I will trust in You alone.**

**Higher than my sight,**

**High above my life;**

**I will trust in You alone.**

**Chorus**

**Where You go, I'll go;**

**Where You stay, I'll stay;**

**When You move, I'll move.**

**I will follow You.**

**Whom You love, I'll love;**

**How You serve, I'll serve;**

**If this life I lose,  
I will follow You, yeah.  
I will follow You, yeah.**

### **Verse 2**

**Light into the world,  
Light into my life –  
I will live for You alone.  
You're the One I seek,  
Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone;  
In You alone.**

### **Chorus**

**Where You go, I'll go;  
Where You stay, I'll stay;  
When You move, I'll move.  
I will follow You.  
Whom You love, I'll love;  
How You serve, I'll serve;  
If this life I lose,  
I will follow You, yeah.  
I will follow You, yeah.**

### **Bridge**

**In You, there's life everlasting.  
In You, there's freedom for my soul.  
In You, there's joy, unending joy;\_\_\_\_  
And I will follow.**

### **Chorus**

**Where You go, I'll go;  
Where You stay, I'll stay;  
When You move, I'll move.  
I will follow You.  
Whom You love, I'll love;  
How You serve, I'll serve;  
If this life I lose,  
I will follow.**

**Chorus (last time)**

**Where You go, I'll go;  
Where You stay, I'll stay;  
When You move, I'll move.  
I will follow You.  
Whom You love, I'll love;  
How You serve, I'll serve;  
If this life I lose,  
I will follow You, yeah.  
I will follow You, yeah.  
I will follow You, yeah.  
I will follow You, yeah.**

**\*DISMISSAL** (*Assisting Minister*)

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

**POST SERVICE MUSIC**

# ***We welcome you to Grace Lutheran Church!***



***Grace is a place of faith, hope and healing for ALL.***

*We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced,  
LGBTQ+, rich, poor, black, brown or white.*

*We extend a special welcome to crying newborns, squirming children,  
and frazzled moms and dads.*

*We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like some of us,  
who can't carry a note in a bucket.*

*You're welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up or just got out of jail.*

*We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Martin Luther,  
or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.*

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*We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet,  
and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.*

*We welcome starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians and junk-food eaters.*

*We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.*

*We welcome you if you're having problems, down in the dumps  
or if you don't like "organized religion",  
we've been there too.*

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*We offer a special welcome to those who are left-wing, right-wing, or middle of the road.*

*If you are here only because you are visiting grandma  
and she wanted you to go to church with her, we welcome you.*

*We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both.*

*We welcome those in flip flops or three-piece suits.*

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*We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now.*

*We welcome vacationers, snow-birds, year-rounders, seekers, doubters....and you!*

*We welcome you to Grace Lutheran Church,  
because we are a "house for all sinners and saints",  
Gathered by the grace of God.*

***Grace is a place of faith, hope and healing for ALL.***

**WORSHIP LEADERS – August 30, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PRESIDING MINISTER   | Rev. Jennifer S. Michael            |
| ASSISTING MINISTER   | Nadine Anderson                     |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Lia Kirk, Debbie Noel               |
| ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFIER   | Joey Corti                          |
| READER               | Bob Barry                           |
| HEAD USHER           | Fred Borchers                       |
| USHERS               | Bob Barry, Dave Davies, Juan Prat   |
| GREETERS             | Kim Barry, Susan Andree             |
| PEW ANGEL            | Deb Bibicoff                        |
| DEPOSITOR            | Alice Deal                          |
| ALTAR GUILD          | Liz Planz, Jan Schultz              |
| REFRESHMENTS         | Bob & Kim Barry, Nancy & Dan Danner |
| VIDEO/CAMERA         | Rob Barry                           |
| SOUND                | Steve Kohls                         |
| POWERPOINT           | Rebecca Campos                      |

*Connecting People to People, People to Christ,  
and People to their role in the world*

**The People of Grace, Ministers**  
**Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop of the Florida/Bahamas Synod**

|                                                 |                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Jennifer S. Michael, Pastor                | <a href="mailto:pastorj michael@gracelutherantampa.org">pastorj michael@gracelutherantampa.org</a> |
| Lisa Katt, Director of Music                    | <a href="mailto:lisak@gracelutherantampa.org">lisak@gracelutherantampa.org</a>                     |
| Jim Sawyers, Organist                           | <a href="mailto:jims@gracelutherantampa.org">jims@gracelutherantampa.org</a>                       |
| Anne Corti, Director of Youth & Family Ministry | <a href="mailto:annec@gracelutherantampa.org">annec@gracelutherantampa.org</a>                     |
| Nadine Anderson, Synod Parish Deacon            | <a href="mailto:nkatx@aol.com">nkatx@aol.com</a>                                                   |

**OFFICE STAFF:**

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| Meagan Orbin, Administrative Assistant | <a href="mailto:Officeadmin@gracelutherantampa.org">Officeadmin@gracelutherantampa.org</a> |
| Fred Borchers, Custodian               |                                                                                            |

**NURSERY:** Ruth Sawyers, Kahlie McCarty, Erin Dean

**STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS:** Mickey Castor, Ruth Anderson, Karen Jankowski,  
Janet Wise

*Stephen Ministry Congregation*



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