

Grace Lutheran Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 06, 2026

“For where two or three are
gathered in my name, I am there
among them.”

~ Matthew 18:15-20



Service of Holy Communion

15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

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 HYMN ELW 864**

"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven"

***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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

The psalm for the day is spoken responsively.

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

EPISTLE READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this

word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20**

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

SERMON

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 603**

"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"

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*)

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to
announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in
unexpected ways.

Receive our prayer, O Lord. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the
needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of
transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster, especially those
in Nepal and Tibet as well as those in our own Grand Canyon and
across our heartlands.

Receive our prayer, O Lord. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor, those in unions, those who do shift work, and those for whom employment is not easy to find. Receive our prayer, O Lord. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Hear our prayers for all in need this day, especially... Frank. 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.

Receive our prayer, O Lord. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Receive our prayer, O Lord. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need.
Amen.

PEACE (*Presiding Minister*)

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

OFFERING ANTHEM "Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether"

Choir

by Harold Friedell

***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*) *Sung responsively*

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*)

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 the directions of the ushers to return to your pew leaving cups in bowls provided.

The assembly is seated

LAMB OF GOD ELW PG. 146

COMMUNION HYMN “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

“MGH SHEEP”

Tune by James Sawyers, Jr (2017)

1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2. With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn,
3. Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly son;
4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease,
5. Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in Him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

***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 HYMN ELW 362**

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (v. 1-4)

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

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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.***

## **Prayer List – Week of September 6, 2026**

*We pray for those in need of Christ's healing touch*

### **NEW TO OUR PRAYER LIST**

09/06 – Frank Migliore (Orbin)

08/23 – Valerie & Andy (Meints), The families affected by the devastating Cobalt Apartments fire last week; and the first responders who fought the fire.

### **ONGOING MEMBER CONCERNS**

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Bert Crouthamel | Troy Brueggemeier      |
| Fred Ullrich    | Yvonne Daily           |
| Carol Gutchner  | Thelma Rodriguez       |
| Rose Kuhns      | Betty Freshcorn        |
| Tim Smith       | Dave Davies            |
| Richard Andree  | Mike Campbell          |
| Brenda Gerding  | Kathy Crouthamel       |
| Sandra Taylor   | Dora Hepner            |
| Kathy Jenkins   | The Katt/Watson Family |
| Ralph Hepner    | Christine Vickers      |
| Bonnie Krafft   | Joe Watson             |

### **OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS**

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tom Saldin(Priede)        | David Griffin (Threm)          |
| Dylan Laliberte (Gould)   | Terri Mackley(Michael)         |
| Janet Haulman (Fast)      | Jeanette Wolfe (Lindgren)      |
| Miles Brown (Vickers)     | Ashley Wilson (Crosby)         |
| Steve Mateus (Albisu)     | Bob Pihl (Missbach)            |
| Ed Hoornstra (Hoornstra)  | Richard Taylor                 |
| Ann Maurer (Maurer)       | Shane Rose (Armstrong)         |
| Chris Adams (Castor)      | Karen Brown & Family (Perrone) |
| Jahn VandePutte (Cheek)   | Joseph Ciccarello (Colegrove)  |
| Stephanie Williams (Hall) | Larry Krauss (Colegrove)       |
| Scott Eidam               | Leila Ritari                   |
| Ian (Hills)               | Judy Zimmerman, (Milo)         |
| James DeBoer (Davies)     | Kathy Dowsett (Milo)           |
| Brenda Giroux (Laettner)  | Pr. Wayne Gollenberg (Milo)    |
| Layla Lebovic (Heckley)   | Jim Laughner (Davies)          |
| Mary Funk                 | Fred Bondzeit (Davies)         |
| Doug Gould                | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  |
| Janet Haulman (Fast)      |                                |

**WORSHIP LEADERS – September 06, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

|                      |                                                |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDING MINISTER   | Rev. Jennifer S. Michael                       |
| ASSISTING MINISTER   | Brad Schmucker                                 |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Susan Andree, Liz Planz                        |
| ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFIER   | Lia Kirk, Finley Heisler                       |
| READER               | Debra Pedonti                                  |
| HEAD USHER           | Fred Borchers                                  |
| USHERS               | Bob Barry, Dave Davies, Juan Prat              |
| GREETERS             | Susan Andree                                   |
| PEW ANGEL            | Linda Gravatt                                  |
| DEPOSITOR            | Linda Gravatt                                  |
| ALTAR GUILD          | Aida Fardella, Jennifer Mirin, Nadine Anderson |
| REFRESHMENTS         | Juan Prat, John Reinhart, Charlotte Hunter     |
| VIDEO/CAMERA         | Michael Hamilton                               |
| SOUND                | Steve Kohls                                    |
| POWERPOINT           | Bob Barry                                      |

*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

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Fred Borchers, Custodian

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

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

*Stephen Ministry Congregation*



**Rev. Jennifer S. Michael, Pastor - 813-599-2390**

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Church office hours 9 a.m.-noon, 1:00 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday