

Grace Lutheran Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

“Am I not allowed to do
what I choose with what belongs
to me? Or are you envious
because I am generous?”

~Matthew 20:15



Service of Holy Communion

17th Sunday *after* Pentecost

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

STAFF APPRECIATION

***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 ELW 401**

"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" (v1,3,5)

***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 (*Assisting Minister*)

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When

the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night."¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Be Thou My Vision" arranged by Dan Miller

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

A reading from Philippians.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** ELW PG. 142

***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"

Tune by Jim Sawyers

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea; there's a
2. There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good; there is
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind; and the
4. 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all: great - er

kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty. There is
mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood. There is
heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. But we
good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall. Make our

no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n. There is
grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this; there is
make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own; and we
love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word, and our

no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love.

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

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness.

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

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity.

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

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, especially...the family and many friends of Maggie. 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.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled.

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

"Earth and All Stars"

arr. by John Behnke
Joyringers

***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 ELW 608

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

***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 685 “Take My Life, That I May Be”**

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

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prayer List – Week of September 20, 2026

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

NEW TO OUR PRAYER LIST

09/20 – the family and friends of Maggie Scott

09/13 –

ONGOING MEMBER CONCERNS

Bert Crouthamel	Troy Brueggemeier
Fred Ullrich	Yvonne Daily
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)
Richard Taylor	Ann Maurer (Maurer)
Shane Rose (Armstrong)	Chris Adams (Castor)
Ian (Hills)	Karen Brown (Perrone)
Joseph Ciccarello (Colegrove)	Stephanie Williams (Hall)
Larry Krauss (Colegrove)	Scott Eidam
Leila Ritari	Jahn VandePutte (Cheek)
Judy Zimmerman, (Milo)	Kathy Dowsett (Milo)
Pr. Wayne Gollenberg (Milo)	Brenda Giroux (Laettner)
Layla Lebovic (Heckley)	Jim Laughner (Davies)
Mary Funk	Fred Bondzeit (Davies)
James DeBoer (Davies)	Doug Gould
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	

WORSHIP LEADERS – September 20, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Jennifer S. Michael
ASSISTING MINISTER	Dave Davies
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Seannah McCarty, Susan Andree
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFIER	Oliver Lanham, Alice Lanham,
READER	Janet Wise
HEAD USHER	Fred Borchers
USHERS	Karen Jankowski, Juan Prat,
GREETERS	Susan Andree
PEW ANGEL	Linda Gravatt
DEPOSITOR	Linda Gravatt
ALTAR GUILD	Aida Fardella, Jennifer Mirin, Nadine Anderson
REFRESHMENTS	Kim & Bob Barry, Juan Prat, John Reinhardt
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

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

Stephen Ministry Congregation



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