Grace Lutheran Church

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026

"Enter into joy."

~ Matthew 25:21



Service of Holy Communion
25th 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 "Awake O Sleeper, Rise From Death"**
ELW 452

***<u>GREETING</u>** *(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.

<u>CANTICLE OF PRAISE</u> **ELW 140-141**

***<u>PRAYER OF THE DAY</u>** *(Presiding Minister)*
Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

<u>FIRST READING</u>: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
A reading from Zephaniah.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish
the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."13 Their wealth shall
be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall
not drink wine from them.14 The great day of the LORD is near, near
and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the
warrior cries aloud there.15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of
distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness
and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,16 a day of trumpet
blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements.17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall
walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their
blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.18 Neither
their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the
LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be
consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants
of the earth.

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

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8, 12



The psalm for the day is sung responsively.

1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born, from age to age |**
you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past and like a watch | in the night;**
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
12 So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you
do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves
know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you
are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night
or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and
those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the

day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

FAMILY MESSAGE Anne Corti, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Elementary children are welcome to join our teachers in Hillmer Chapel for a fun-filled lesson on the Gospel text. They will exit as a group and return as a group during the Peace. Parents are always welcome to join.

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

***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

Gospel continues next page

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man,
going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received

the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

SERMON Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***HYMN OF THE DAY "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"**
ELW 674

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)*

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news.

Lord, in your mercy... **receive our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species.

Lord, in your mercy... **receive our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite.

Lord, in your mercy... **receive our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing, especially Eric, Yvonne, and Michael and Lisa. 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.

Lord, in your mercy... **receive our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you.

Lord, in your mercy... **receive our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

PEACE *(Presiding Minister)*

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

OFFERING ANTHEM "Order My Steps" arr. by Jack Schrader
Choir

***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: ourselves, 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)*

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.

Believing in Jesus Christ, we invite ALL to the sacrament of Holy Communion. Receive the host, then take one of the small cups. Wine is the outer rings and grape juice is the inner rings. Gluten-free wafers are available. 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 "By Your Hand You Feed Your People"
ELW 469

***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.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, giver of every good gift: You entrust us with the abundance of your grace and call us to share it faithfully with others. Bless those who go forth to bring your word and sacrament to those who are sick and homebound. As we share the gifts you have entrusted to our care, nourish and strengthen those who receive this holy communion. Through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, remind us all of your abiding presence and the joy of sharing in your abundant love. **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 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632**

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

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

POSTLUDE

The floral arrangement on the altar is in loving memory of John D. Otterness.

We welcome you to Grace Lutheran Church!

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.

Adopted by GLC Council-10/09/2012
Revised & Approval by GLC Council-Revised 10/10/17
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WORSHIP LEADERS – November 15, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Jennifer Michael
ASSISTING MINISTER	Kerry Wise
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Amy Lay, Carole Priede, Lia Kirk
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER	Alice Lanham, Lia Kirk
READER	Kent Fast
HEAD USHER	Fred Borchers
USHERS	Kipp VanPay, Kent Fast, Karen Jankowski
DEPOSITOR	Alice Deal
ALTAR GUILD	Liz Planz, Connie Moffatt, Brad Schmucker, Kipp VanPay
REFRESHMENTS	*Grace Girlfriends*, Charlotte Hunter
LIVE STREAM	Lori Ludick
SOUND	Barb Toepke
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	pastorjmichael@gracelutherantampa.org
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NURSERY: Ruth Sawyers, Kahlie McCarty, Erin Dean

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

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Stephen Ministry Congregation

GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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