GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Saturday, September 26, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 27, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine,” No. 815

**1 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine,
Didst yield the glory that of right was Thine,
That in our darkened hearts Thy grace might shine.
    Alleluia!**

**2 Thou cam’st to us in lowliness of thought;
By Thee the outcast and the poor were sought;
And by Thy death was God’s salvation wrought.
    Alleluia!**

**3 Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,
Who wast a servant that we might be free,
Humbling Thyself to death on Calvary.
    Alleluia!**

**4 Wherefore, by God’s eternal purpose, Thou
Art high exalted o’er all creatures now,
And giv’n the name to which all knees shall bow.
    Alleluia!**

**5 Let ev’ry tongue confess with one accord,
In heav’n and earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord,
And God the Father be by all adored.
    Alleluia!**

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INVOCATION

 *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

 **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

 *The Lord lifts up the humble;*

 **He casts the wicked to the ground.**

 *Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love*

 **for they have been from of old.**

 *Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;*

**according to Your steadfast love, remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

 *O almighty God, merciful Father,*

**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

*Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

 **Amen.**

*May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.*

 **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “From All That Dwell Below the Skies,” No. 816

**1 From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator’s praise arise; Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung
Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.
    Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**2 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
    Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3 All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.  Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore:
    Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

SALUTATION

 *The Lord be with you.*

 **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. O God of life and hope, You have given rescue to sinners in despair of their*

*sins and to those marked for death. Turn our attention to Your mercy that we learn to*

*rejoice in Your good will, that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of Christ our*

*Savior; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy*

*Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

 **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: **2**“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’? **3**As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. **4**Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

 **25**“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? **26**When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. **27**Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. **28**Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. **29**Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

 **30**“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. **31**Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? **32**For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10 *(Spoken responsively)*

*1To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.***2O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**

***3****Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

**4Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

***5****Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
    for you I wait all the day long.*

**6Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

***7****Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord*!

**8Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

***9****He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.***10All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

EPISTLE Philippians 2:1-18

 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

 12Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

 *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

 **23**And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” **24**Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. **25**The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ **26**But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” **27**So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

 **28**“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ **29**And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. **30**And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. **31**Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. **32**For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

 *This is the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

 **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

 **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

 **I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “Images of Joy”

 Philippians 2:1-18 – Dr. Glenn Nielsen

SERMON HYMN “Where Charity and Love Prevail,” No. 845

**1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.**

**2 With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.**

**3 Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well  In Christian holiness.**

**4 Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;
Be God’s the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.**

**5 Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.**

**6 For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*As You have promised, Lord, hear Your people when they call, and answer us according to Your mercy.
Almighty Father, You take no pleasure in the death of anyone. As John the Baptist once called a people to repentance and faith, so raise up voices within Your Church today to call a world to turn from their sins and live through faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Almighty Father, You have given to us the saving name of Jesus. Continue to bless us with faithful pastors who will preach Jesus Christ and His salvation, and bestow upon us faithful church workers who will serve us in Your name. Bless those now preparing for vocations as pastors, deaconesses, teachers, and all other offices as Your Church has established. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Almighty Father, You are gracious and merciful without end. Deliver us from a spirit of complaint, and keep us from grumbling at Your call to serve You with all that we are and all that we have. Grant us grace to fulfill our baptismal calling where You have placed us and according to the vocations given to us. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Almighty Father, Your power continues to uphold all things. Give Your blessing to our president, Congress, governor, and state legislature. Guide all who make, administer, and judge our laws that they be in accord with Your commands and give protection to the unborn, the aged, and the oppressed. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Almighty Father, You know our enemies and those whose purpose is set against Yours. Give Your blessing to all who defend our nation here and abroad and to all emergency personnel and disaster workers who come to our aid in time of need. Guide the nations in the paths of peace and deliver us from terror and violence. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Almighty Father, You have given us healing, comfort, and peace in Christ, especially in times of illness, affliction, depression, and sorrow. Hear us on behalf of all who suffer any need. Grant them grace sufficient to sustain them in their hour of trouble and at last deliver them into the perfect rest of Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Almighty Father, You have delivered the saints of old into the perfect rest of Your presence. Keep us in faith that we, too, may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life. Help us to remember their example and to be encouraged in the struggles of this mortal life by the way You sustained them to the end. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**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.**

BENEDICTION

*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 you peace.*

 **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service,” No. 848

**1 Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
 Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
 We, Your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose Ev’ry gift that You impart.**

**2 Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
 Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.**

**3 As we worship, grant us vision, Till Your love’s revealing light
 In its height and depth and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,
 Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.**

**4 Called by worship to Your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,
 To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
 Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.**

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POSTLUDE

*Grace is for all!*