

# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 10<sup>th</sup> Street ~ DeWitt, Iowa 52742 - Church: 563-659-9153 ~ [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)

+ The Order of Service +

## The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.

**WELCOME GUESTS!** We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again!

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 4, beginning on page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book.
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The Preservice Music

A Time for Meditation

The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

The Ringing of the Bell

Words of Welcome by Pastor Merle Warnsholz

**The Opening Hymn**

**#915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"**

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us  
    To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
    Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
    Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
    And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,  
    And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome  
    And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
    A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
    A glorious crown in heav'n.

- 3 Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

## Confession and Absolution

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

**C Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 96:6a; 115:18*

**P** Splendor and majesty are before him;

**C** We will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.  
Praise the Lord!

**P** Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C** Extol him, all peoples!

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**C** And the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** Splendor and majesty are before him;

**C** We will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.  
Praise the Lord!

### Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria In Excelsis



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shi - ped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**P** O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 66:18-23*

"For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is

coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth  
that I make  
shall remain before me, says the LORD,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.  
From new moon to new moon,  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me,  
declares the LORD.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

**A** Fear the Lord, you his saints,

**C** **For those who fear him lack nothing!**

**A** Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

**C** **But the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

## Epistle

*Hebrews 12:4-24*

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to

those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all,

and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

Alleluia and Verse - ♪♪♪

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 13:22-30*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place




there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Apostles' Creed

**C** 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.

*Sit*

### The Hymn of the Day #516 *“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*

1 “Wake, awake, for night is flying,  
The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes, awake!

Your lamps with gladness take!  
Alleluia!  
With bridal care  
Yourselves prepare  
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;  
Her star is ris’n, her light is come.  
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,  
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna!  
We enter all  
The wedding hall  
To eat the Supper at Thy call.
- 3 Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee,  
Let saints and angels sing before Thee  
With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, joining with the choir immortal,  
We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No eye has seen the light,  
No ear has heard the might  
Of Thy glory;  
Therefore will we  
Eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

**Sermon**

**“Narrow Minded”**  
*Luke 13:23-24*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

## **Offering**

*Stand*

## **Lord's Prayer**

**C** 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.

## **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## **The Closing Hymn #851 “Lord of Glory, You have Bought Us”**

1 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the \_unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.

- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You  
Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given  
To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence,  
"You have done it all to Me."  
Can it be, O gracious Master,  
That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy,  
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?
- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly,  
Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
But, oh, best of all Your graces,  
With Your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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