THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Case for Grace

August 23, 2026



Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! *Romans 11:33*

Mount Hope Lutheran Church
Sunday Service - 9:30am
Sunday Bible Study – after Service
Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am

(313) 565- 9445
5323 Southfield
Allen Park, MI 48101

Rev. Paul Pollatz

(734) 765–3468

Welcome! Members and Guests

We are blessed to have you here today. Please fill out the Guest/Member Attendance Card located in the pew rack in front of you. Guests please include your full address, zip code, and phone number. The cards will be collected by the ushers early in the service. Prayer Requests cards are available in the pew racks and should be handed to the ushers when the attendance cards are collected.

Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which Jesus' body and blood are given in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-30). When we receive the Holy Communion at a church, we are making a public statement that we agree with the teachings of that church (1 Corinthians 10:14-18). The Bible cautions us against receiving the body and blood of Christ in a manner that is spiritually harmful (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Supper those who have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

Large Print Bulletins

Large print worship guides are available at the ushers' stand.

Listening Devices

Listening devices are available; our ushers will be glad to assist you in signing one out for today's service.

Pew Cushions

Pew cushions are available; our ushers will be glad to get them for you.

Wheelchair Accessible Seating

Wheelchair seating is located in the fifth row from the front of the church on the left and right side of the center aisle.

Church Nursery

Our Nursery is located in the Parlor, which is the first room next to the stained glass doors. The worship service can be heard in this room. The ushers can direct you to this room.

Our Divine Service, & Bible Studies

Our Divine Service is held on Sundays at 09:30 a.m. Bible Study is held on Sundays after Service and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Our Bible studies are held Sep-May.

Our Vision Statement – Revitalize within, Reach out !

PRELUDE
THE RINGING OF THE BELLS
WORDS OF WELCOME
PREPARATION

Pastor: Sometimes people at worship are seemingly surprised when the same hymn is sung at services two weeks in a row or even twice in the same month. Many hymns are chosen in a way that honors the statement of Martin Luther: ***"A good song may well be sung often"*** (*WLS* § 1839). Luther expressed this truism as he was commenting on how frequently telling and retelling the grace of God is a good thing for Christian people. He states in a sermon from 1537: ***"This is grace: the forgiveness of sins for the sake of the Lord Christ, the covering up of all sins"*** (*WLS* § 1839). Our lives are shaped by the amazing grace of God, for which, through **our faithful worship**, we offer our thanks again and again.

(Please Stand)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

"Jesus, Th Blood and Righteousness"
LSB 563 vs 1, 2, 5 & 6

Jesus Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are my glorious dress
Midst flaming worlds in these arrayed
With joy shall I lift up my head

Bold shall I stand in that great day
Cleansed and redeemed no debt to pay
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear from guilt and shame

When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies
This then shall be my only plea
Jesus hath lived and died for me

Jesus be endless praise to Thee
Whose boundless mercy hath for me
For me and all Thy hands have made
An everlasting ransom paid

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 29:1–2, 11; 96:3–4a*

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

Pastor: May the LORD give strength to His people!

People: May the LORD bless His people with peace!

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the Confess of Sins and Absolution.)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Gracious God, with contrition and repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(Please Stand)

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 2:6–7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18*

Pastor: But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

People: As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.

Pastor: I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."

People: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

People: 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.

Pastor: But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

KYRIE *(p. 152 & 153)*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord

People: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

"God Loved the World So That He Gave" *LSB* 571 vs 1 & 2

God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith
Who was made flesh and suffered death
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, each day You graciously provide for all our needs. By the working of the Holy Spirit within us, enable us to be vessels of Your grace and kindness, that those who see our good works done to Your glory may give thanks to You as the source of all that is good and holy. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 51:1–6*

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 138*

People: I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise;

Women: I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.

Men: On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

People: All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of Your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

Women: For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.

Men: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

People: The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands. 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.

EPISTLE *Romans 11:33–12:8*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

VERSE *Ephesians 2:19b–20*

Pastor: Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

People: built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St.
Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.
People: (sing) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13–20*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ATTENDANCE CARDS

Please pass your prayer requests and yellow attendance cards to the aisle and the usher will collect them during the singing of the hymn of the day. Guests are to fill out one side of the yellow cards and members the other side.

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace" LSB 744 vs 1-3

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Through many dangers toils and snares
I have already come
His grace has brought me safe thus far
His grace will lead me home

++ SERMON ++

THE CASE FOR GRACE

Text: Romans 11:33–12:8

Theme: We celebrate and sacrifice because of God's judgment in favor of grace in Christ, not life under the Law.

Goal: That everyone listening rejoice in God's grace and therefore delight to present their lives as sacrifices of service.

Sermon Outline

We Celebrate and Sacrifice Because of God's Judgment in Favor of Grace in Christ, Not Life Under the Law.

I. Saul the prosecutor becomes Paul the defense attorney.
II. Paul presents his Case for Grace—of the necessity of beginning with the Law before presenting the Gospel.
III. Paul answers cross-examination objections by the real prosecutor, the world, and our troubled consciences.
IV. We celebrate and sacrifice now that the judgment for grace is in!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace" LSB 744 vs 4 & 5

Yes when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun

(Please Stand)

CATECHISM *The Third Article*

Pastor: It is by the grace of God that we are called and gathered into the fellowship of the church where the Holy Spirit enlightens us and God's glory is known. Together we speak the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning as given by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism.

People: 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.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the Prayers of the Church)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the church, that God's people may live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. And we pray for this gathering of God's holy people, that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, in mercy hear us.

People: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Pastor: We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or homebound, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, and all those whose needs are known to us, …….. As Your people, grant that we may bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places. Lord, in mercy hear us.

People: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Pastor: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who have been called to glory and now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your splendid presence in heaven. Lord, in mercy hear us.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be" *LSB* 783 vs 1-3

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy Love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice and let me sing
Always only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee

(Please Stand)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your grace that we may take up our cross and live our lives as sacrifices of service day by day. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven, we praise Your glorious name.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS *(we sing) LSB 161*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We thank You for Your grace shown to us in sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to give us assurance of Your forgiving love and Your grace. Through lives directed by Your Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live out the good confession of our faith in Christ as our Lord and Savior as we await eternal life in

Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne in glory everlasting.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: **"Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: **"Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB PAGE 163*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Jesus, Th Blood and Righteousness" *LSB* 563 vs 3 & 4

Lord I believe Thy precious blood
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty
Was also shed in love for me

Lord I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore
Thou hast for all a ransom paid
For all a full atonement made

(Please Stand)

THE POST-DISTRIBUTION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

People: (spoken) **Amen**

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (we sing) TLH p. 29-30

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a light to lighten the
Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that this Sacrament we have now received may strengthen us in faith and in loving service to one another. As we have shared in the hospitality of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who are given to heartfelt charity and loving service in the name of Jesus

Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Go My Children, with My Blessing" *LSB* 922

Go My children with My blessing
Never alone
Waking sleeping I am with you
You are My own
In My love's baptismal river
I have made you
Mine forever
Go My children with My blessing
You are My own

Go My children sins forgiven
At peace and pure
Here you learned how much I love you
What I can cure
Here you heard My dear Son's story
Here you touched Him saw His glory
Go My children sins forgiven
At peace and pure

Go My children fed and nourished
Closer to Me
Grow in love and love by serving
Joyful and free
Here My Spirit's power filled you
Here His tender comfort stilled you
Go My children fed and nourished
Joyful and free

I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace
I the Lord will be your Father
Savior Comforter and Brother
Go My children I will keep you
And give you peace

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated for Announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor
Marie Brown, Organist
Dave Brown, Elder & Reader
Jim Bumgarner, Frank Pignanelli & Sophia Panich, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Service Opportunity

Donations of Cereal boxes for Blessed Hope Food Pantry. Please place them in grey box by mailboxes.

Quilting

Every Thursday from 10am to 2pm

Attendance

Saturday August 8th	5:00pm	3
Sunday August 9th	9:30 am	26

Prayer List If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact Donna McCall at (313) 389-9626. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary

Linda & Steve Hurst – August 24th
Val & Gary Mason – August 26th

Birthdays

Kim Jones – August 23rd
Mike Vanhampler – August 24th
Kelley Corona – August 26th
Lee Wells – August 27th

For the Shut-Ins

Mack Mayfield, at home
Louis Bigliardi, Assistant Living
Joan Hafkesbrink, at Beaumont Commons
Carmell Faulk, at home

Phyllis Witte, at Aerius Health Center
Lynn Mayfield, at home
Joy Mead, Ashford Court
Bill Switter, at home

For Those Who Are Sick / Healing / Special Circumstances

Chevy Pratt, surgery 8/17, the past Monday, friend of Glenn Cairns

Mark Panich, father of Sophia Panich, at home recovering from appendectomy

Shirley Haase's good friend (Walt), had back surgery and is not doing well

ISAIAH CHRISTOPHER POE, born August 14, 2026, great grandson of Frances Ladach

Bethany Hagelstein, thanksgiving for her safe travel to Chicago, and especially for her wedding engagement! Congratulations to you Bethany!

Ava Kay Mylenek, born August 1, 2026, Elsie and Pam Brophy, her great grandmother, and great grand aunt respectively!!

Bill Switter, home from being hospitalized

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT MOUNT HOPE

Sunday August 16	9:30am – Worship w/HC
Monday August 17	Office Open 9am – 1pm
Tuesday August 18	Office Open 12pm – 4pm
Wednesday August 19	Office Closed
Thursday August 20	Office Open 10am – 3pm Quilting 10am - 2pm
Friday August 21	Office Closed
Saturday August 22	Saturday Night Church 5pm
Sunday August 23	9:30am – Worship w/HC

In preparation for



Join us Sunday, September 13th

9:30am Service

&

10:45 Quilt Square Building along with

Ice Cream Social

(free will donations will go to the youth for National Gatherings)

The Envelope Printery Incorporated
Dave Hamilton and The Envelope Printery, Inc.
supply all our printing needs.
8979 Samuel Barton Dr. • Van Buren Twp., MI 48111 • 1-800-536-8505