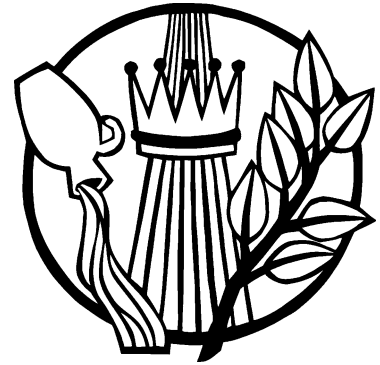


Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021
10:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church
Wenatchee, WA



Welcome to Grace!

The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.

You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.

As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.

Our Mission Statement

"To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Break Bread Together

arrangement by Thomas W. Jefferson

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

G Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

ELW 660, *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. **Refrain**

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **Refrain**

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G **And also with you.**

KYRIE

p. 138

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

📌 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me**
whenev- ¹ er I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹ came
upon me;
I came to ¹ grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name ¹ of the LORD:**
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹ save my life.”

⁵Gracious is the ^l LORD and righteous;
our God is full ^l of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches o- ^l ver the innocent;
I was brought low, ^l and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, ^l O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt ^l well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my ^l life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ^l feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence ^l of the LORD
in the land ^l of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

A reading from James.

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea

creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species,
⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who
are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come
blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.
¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and
brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives,
or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, word of life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

☞ Glory to you, O Lord.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"
²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

ELW 685, *Take My Life, That I May Be*

1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 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.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, if all for thee.

Please stand as you are able

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole Christian Church on earth, let us confess our faith.

C **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

P Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C ...hear our prayer.

P Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

Just to be With You
written by Marlena La Paz

You say you want to lead a life of illumination,
To say it's true, no, that won't make it do.
To make your living filled with love and a new vibration
you must change you; yes, and lose it, too!

Chorus

It's just to be with You.
It's just to be with You.
My God, that's all that I can do!

Pretend you live it with the thrill in a conversation;
To feel a thrill, no, that won't take you through.
Or, you can fake it with a forced bit of contemplation –
It just won't do, oh, it'll never do!

Chorus

So, if your twisty path is needing an explanation
To guide your steps and to show you the way;
Then give yourself to God, let that be your day's libation.
And the whispered truth will ever brighten your day!

Chorus

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

RITE OF WELCOME FOR INTERN ANNA FERRO

P Let us pray:

O God, through the Holy Spirit... .. to the glory of your holy name.

C Amen.

Scripture Reading

P In the coming year, the intern will work with the supervising pastor and this congregation to be formed as a pastor and to develop skills for pastoral ministry.

Intern Team Representative: I ask you, Anna, are you willing to assume your partnership in ministry here, and will you seek to engage in that ministry to God's glory?

Intern: I am, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Please stand as you are able

Intern Team Representative: In the coming year, the members of this congregation and the supervising pastor, are asked to accept this intern as a partner in ministry: welcoming her into their homes, sharing in her learning and growth and encouraging, supporting and praying for her.

Now I ask you, will you receive Anna as a partner in ministry, and uphold and support her in every way?

☑ Yes, by God's help.

☐ Let us pray:

Gracious and loving God, by your Holy Spirit empower Anna in her learning and serving. Grant her a vision of your kingdom among us your people, in this place called Grace, and in the wider community. Form her in her resting and in her working, in her proclamation and teaching, in her working for the healing of the world, and in her love for all your people. Nurture your call in her by the mercies of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☑ Amen.

Please be seated

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

ELW 733, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

G **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross
setting by Charles W. Ore

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister: Rev. James Aalgaard
Assisting Minister: Pastoral Intern Anna Ferro
Organist: Judy Olson
Musical Offering: Marlena LaPaz

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