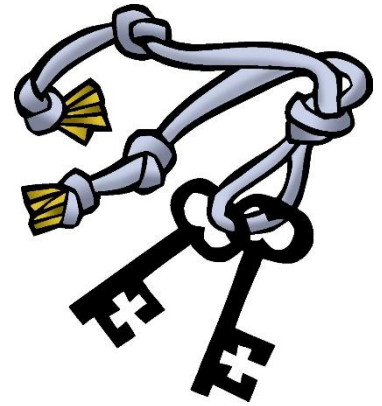


13th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 2026
9:30am

All Times and Places: WOV setting 6

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.

Holy Communion: *We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!*

If you are worshipping with children: *Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options especially for our young worshipers. **Children's bulletins** are available from the ushers. We have a **Cozy Corner**, with books and quiet activities, in the back part of the sanctuary. We also have a staffed **nursery** available during our worship gathering. You will find it down the administrative wing, on the left.*

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."*

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.



Introduction to the day

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

+ + + GATHERING + + +

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

WELCOME & KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE

Simple Gifts

Trad. Shaker Song

Please stand as you are able.

LITANY IN TIME OF WILDFIRES

Holy God, in the wake of fires that devour and consume,
Refresh us with the water of life.

In the barren places of ash and dust,
Restore us with the water of life.

When all we can see is devastation and despair,
Renew us with the water of life.

In Christ, we are washed clean.
We are refreshed.

In Christ, we drink from the wellspring of hope.
We are restored.

In Christ, we dance in the fountain of life.
We are renewed.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Making Their Way



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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GREETING

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

ELW #846, *Amen, We Praise Your Name*

Sing 3 times, in harmony (either language).

Leader Assembly

Ma - si - thi! A-men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!
Sing prais - es! A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!

A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi! A - men, ba-wo.
A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es! A - men, a - men.

A - men, ba-wo. A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!
A - men, a - men. A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - es!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

+ + + WORD + + +

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ 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.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make 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.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat it.

The cantor sings verses. All sing the refrain as indicated.

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
2 Been so good, been so good,
3 Been my friend, been my friend, Lord, good, friend,
Lord, good, friend, I just want to thank you, Lord. Lord. Lord.

Text and Music: African American spiritual. P.D.

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things. **Refrain***

*When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord. **Refrain***

*The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me. You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. **Refrain***

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

A reading from Romans.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor:

All:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Cantor:

All:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Music: South African; arr. Gobingca Mxadana
Arr. © Gobingca Mxadana

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GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

This hymn from Kenya makes us want to stand up and sing! Indeed, standing on Jesus the rock is the hymn's center. Kenyan melodies begin as oral tradition and then later might be written down. You may notice its textual similarities to "My hope is built on nothing less" (ELW 596/597).

Refrain

Kwa - ke Ye - su na - si - ma - ma, ndi - ye
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the

mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma. Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my

... continued on p. 9 ...

ma, ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.

1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I

storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y

Refrain
flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer

Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

+++ MEAL +++

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



To donate electronically, use this QR code.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Over My Head
Occasional Choir

African American spiritual

Over my head, I hear music in the air. There must be a God somewhere.
And when I'm feeling lonely ...
With everyone who's crying ...
With people needing courage ...

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

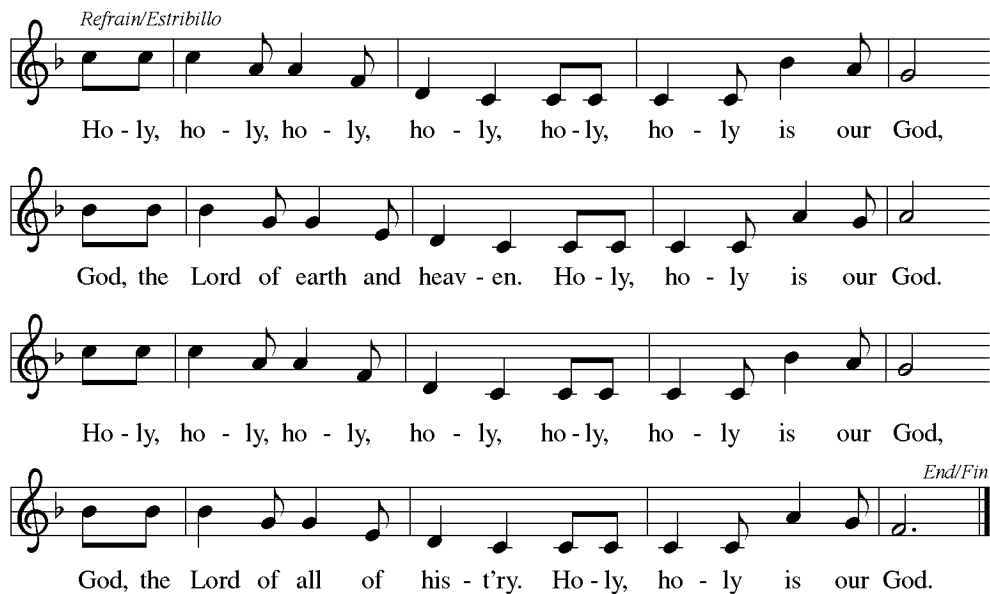
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Refrain/Estribillo



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,
God, the Lord of earth and heav - en. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,
God, the Lord of all of his - t'ry. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God. *End/Fin*

*Cantor: Who accompanies our people, who lives within our struggles,
of all the earth and heaven the one and only Lord.
Blest are they who in the Lord's name announce the holy gospel,
proclaiming the good news that our liberation comes. **Refrain (All)***

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God ... both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Oi, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, io - ka pois o - tat maa - il - man
O Lamb . . of God, you take . . . a - way . . the sin of the

syn - nin, ar-mah-da mei-tä, ar-mah-da mei - tä.
world; . . have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us. (Repeat)

Oi, Ju-ma-lan Ka - rit - sa, io-ka pois o-tat maa-il-man syn - nin,
O Lamb of God, you take . . a - way . . the sin of the world; . . .

an - na meil-le rau - ha - si ja siu-na - uk - se - si.
grant us vi-sion, grant us jus-tice, grant us your own true peace.

Music: Matti Rantatalo
Music © 1992 Matti Rantatalo

DISTRIBUTION SONG

ELW #623, *Rock of Ages*

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

+ + + SENDING + + +

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

Please be seated.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

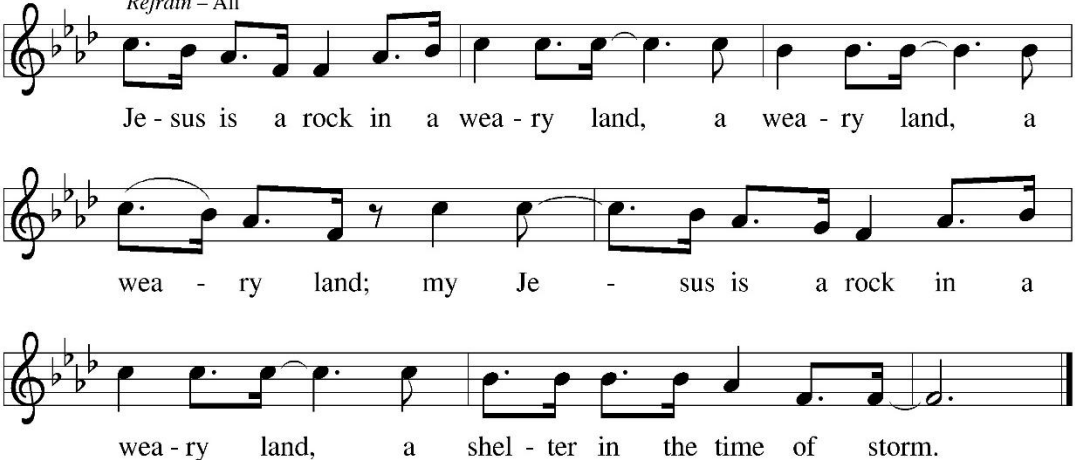
BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

ELW #333, *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*

Refrain – All

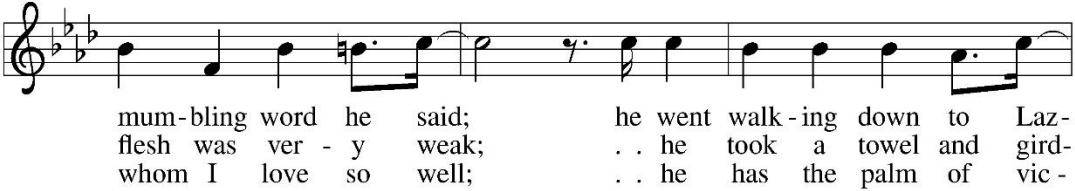


Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader



1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum-bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

Refrain



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Spiritual, arr. Edwin T. Childs

+ + +

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Ushers/Greeters:	Dennis & Lisa Burgett
Lector:	Suellen Harris
Cantor:	Kathy Gavin
Guitar:	Carlos Polivka
Flutes:	Karen & Lisa Zanol
Mandolin:	Tami Woolsey
Percussion:	Marlena La Paz, Sherry Krebs
Tech:	Adam Dunbar

+ + +

A note regarding livestreaming at Grace: With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

+ + +

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Amen, We Praise Your Name, Text: South African traditional, P.D. Music: attr. S. C. Molefe, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana © Gobingca Mxadana. Permission requested.

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. James Aalgaard
Deacon Ruth Anderson
Jen Pearson-Gale
Ann Martinson-Bartlett

Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Office Administrator
Office Assistant

pastor@glcwen.org
deacon@glcwen.org
office@glcwen.org

Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee WA 98801
509-663-2189
www.glcwen.org

