

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota
www.gracealbertlea.org • Facebook.com/GraceAlbertLea

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** O Day of Rest and Gladness **ELW 521**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

A: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin to God.
Compassionate God,

A: 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.

L: 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.

A: Amen.

***Greeting**

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

A: And also with you

***Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray,

A: 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.

Psalm 133

L: ¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

A: ² **It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

L: ³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

¹I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

L: The word of the Lord

A: **Thanks be to God**

Many Members, One Body (Spark Bible pg. 542)

Apostles like Paul stayed very busy telling as many people as possible about Jesus and his love for them. Sometimes Paul traveled to share the good news in person. Sometimes he sent letters to teach his friends more about what it meant to be Christian. Together, they were part of a new family of people who believed in Jesus.

Paul wrote this message to Christians who lived in the city of Corinth. He wanted to help them understand how special the church was, including everyone in it.

“The church is like a human body. One body has many different parts, but it’s still one body. We are many different kinds of people, but we’re still one body of believers. If a foot said, ‘Because I’m not a hand I’m not a part of this body,’ that would be silly!

It would still be a part of the body. And if the whole body was an eye, how could it hear or smell? That’s silly too! God made our bodies to have lots of parts, and each part has something special to do. God made all of our parts to work together! The body of believers is the same.

“God has given each of you special things to do. Some of you travel to share the news about Jesus, and some of you teach right where you live. Some of you heal the sick or become church leaders. Is everyone a teacher? Is everyone a leader? No, that would be silly too. God made us to be different and to do different things to show our love for Jesus. Just like the different parts of one body, we all have different talents and we all work together. God has made each of us very special!”

L: The word of the Lord

A: **Thanks be to God**

Children's Message: Pastor Shane Koepke

Sermon: Deacon Jessie Camp

***Hymn of the Day:** Built on a Rock..... ELW 652

Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

Blessing of the Backpacks

***Apostles Creed**

A: 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 life everlasting. Amen

***Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends with the words:

L: God of grace...

A: hear our prayer.

***Sharing Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory Song:** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (vs 1) ELW 674

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

***Offering Prayer**

L: Let us pray,

A: 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.

***Holy Communion**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

**A: 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.**

Distribution

Hymns: Let Us Break Bread Together **ELW 471**
Father, We Thank You **ELW 478**

Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray,

A: 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.

Blessing

L: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

A: Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** To Be Your Presence **ELW 546**

***Sending**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

THANK YOU for joining in worship at Grace Lutheran!

Welcome to all members and visitors! May God bless this time of worship with joy and peace. If you're seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Grace family—please speak with the pastor or deacon for more information.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

WORSHIP LEADERS: Pastor Shane Koepke and Deacon Jessie Camp

MUSIC: Aaron Bartz

SCRIPTURE READER: Paul Dunn

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Gary & Jeanne Schindler

Text and illustrations from *Spark Story Bible*. Copyright © 2009 by Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.