GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost **November 8, 2026**

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Prelude: Notturno, Op. 54, No. 4 ..... **Edvard Grieg**

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** Christ, Be Our Light ..... **ELW 715**

*Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.

A: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Holy God,

**A: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.**

L: Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.

A: Amen.

Song: This Little Light of Mine ..... **Sung by our Sunday School kids**

*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. O God of justice and love,

A: you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: The word of the Lord
A: Thanks be to God

Psalm 70

L: 1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
A: 2 Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
L: 3 Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!”
turn back because of their shame.
A: 4 Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, “God is great!”
L: 5 But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so
that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died
and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this
we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of
the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from
heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the
Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: The word of the Lord
A: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation**



L: The Gospel according to Matthew.
A: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to
meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their
lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the
bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a
shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got
up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps
are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had
better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the
bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the
door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But
he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the
day nor the hour.

L: The gospel of the Lord!
A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message: Pastor Shane Koepke

Sermon: Deacon Jessie Camp

***Hymn of the Day:** Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying ..... **ELW 436**

Presentation of Bibles

***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, in your mercy,
A: hear our prayer.

***Sharing Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
A: And also with you.

Offering

Song: Sweet Dreams, Op. 39, No. 21 ..... **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

***Offertory Song:** We Give Thee but Thine Own (verse 1)..... **ELW 686**

We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

***Offering Prayer**

L: Let us pray. Eternal God,
A: our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

*Reflection at the Table

L: The Empire wanted them frightened, divided, and alone.
A: Christ wanted them together at the table.
L: How many fish had they caught? How many weddings had they attended? How many loaves had they multiplied?
A: How many meals had they shared, just like this one?
L: At this table, Christ continues to gather us.
When we come to this meal, we remember. More than that, we are re-membered – joined again to Christ and to one another as the Body of Christ.
A: Every time we practice community and seek connection, we re-member the body of Christ.
L: The promise given in bread and wine is proximate, as near as my blood to yours. And this promise is universal, for everyone and without condition.
A: Forgiveness is uniquely for you and for everyone else, too.
L: It's just a morsel of bread and a sip of wine. Yet in these simple gifts, Christ is fully present, gathering us in and giving us what we need to live.
A: Christ wants us together at the table.
L: Come to remember and be re-membered.
A: Many voices raised to One God, the Living Voice of Creation.

From Living Voice of Creation. Nourishing Vocation Project, Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

*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: I Come with Joy ..... **ELW 482**
Bread of Life from Heaven ..... **ELW 474**

***Prayer after Communion**

L: Let us pray. Holy God,

A: we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

***Blessing**

L: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

A: Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen ..... **ELW 548**

***Sending**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Allegro from Suite in F major, HWV 427, movement II..... **George Frideric Handel**

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: Karen Hendrickson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Roy Page & Steve Thompson
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE: Given in memory of Julie Jasperson by Kent Jasperson