

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Prelude: Praise to the Lord **David Paxton**

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** Rise Up, O Saints of God! **ELW 669**

***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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹²As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Reading: John 10:11-15

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

The Lord is My Shepherd (Spark Bible pg. 160)

David, the shepherd, loved his sheep. He led them to beautiful fields where they ran, played, jumped, and kicked up their heels. They ate the lush green grass and feasted on delicious berries. They drank from cool mountain streams and splashed in refreshing waterfalls.

David cared for each and every lamb. If one wandered over the hill, David was quick to go and find it. He put the lost lamb on his shoulders and sang sweet songs and hummed soft melodies. Sometimes he played his harp to help the tired lambs fall asleep.

During times of danger, David fought against wild animals with only a slingshot and some stones. His sheep were not afraid because David was always with them.

David thought about what he did as a shepherd, and thought that God cares for people in many of the same ways that he cared for his sheep. One day, David wrote a song to tell everyone God is like a shepherd. God loves and cares for each and every one of us.

God is my shepherd, he gives me all I need.
He gives me wonderful places to rest and sleep.
He lets me splash and play in cool, clear waters.
He helps me do what is right.
I am not afraid even in the darkest nights
Because you are with me, God, and
Your protection comforts me.
When danger comes, you give me strength.
My life is filled with your love, and all I want is to be
With you my whole life long.

David sang his song to his sheep, thankful for all the ways God loved and cared for him.

L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Children's Message: Deacon Jessie Camp

Sermon: Pastor Shane Koepke

***Hymn of the Day:** God, Whose Firm Is All Creation..... ELW 734

***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: Merciful God,

A: hear our prayer.

***Sharing Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory Song:** Praise and Thanksgiving **ELW 689**

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

***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: Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue **ELW 644**

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty **ELW 777**

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:** Sing to the Lord of Harvest **ELW 694**

*Sending

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: St Gertrude **Joseph Prentiss**

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: Carol Olson

SCRIPTURE READER: LaJean Westeng

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jim & LaJean Westeng

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