

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota
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Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**October 11, 2026**

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Prelude: Come, Thou Found of Every Blessing.....Bells of Praise.....arr. **Bill Ingram**

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (verses 1, 2 & 6) **ELW 873**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Baptized at worship is **Quinn Nicole Everett**, daughter of Garrett & Katelyn Everett. The sponsors for Quinn are Liley Steven, Justice Hopperstad, Josh Everett, and Ally Rasmussen.

This is a congregational celebration! As we celebrate God's promises to Quinn, we make promises of our own, profess our faith boldly, and welcome our new sister in Christ.

A Reminder of God's Promises: Pastor Shane Koepke

L: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Promises of the Parents, Sponsors, and Congregation:

L: When we bring children to receive God's gift of baptism, we take on special responsibilities. We promise to bring them to worship and encourage them to be a part of the larger work of the Body of Christ. We promise to teach them the foundations of faith, Christ's gifts of mercy and love, and the value of every part of God's creation. We promise to show them the power of prayer and to pray at all times. We promise to open up Scripture with them and study God's Word together. We promise to share in faith and service as hallmarks of the Christian life.

Do you, parents, promise to help Quinn grow in these ways throughout her life?

Parents: We do.

L: Sponsors are important mentors and examples of faith. Do you as sponsors, encourage Quinn to grow in faith and life?

Sponsors: We do.

L: As a congregation, we promise to make this a safe place for all of God's children to learn and grow. Will you take your part in encouraging Quinn as she grows in faith?

A: We will.

Profession of Faith

L: Let us be bold in professing our faith.

**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.**

L: Do you renounce evil, the devil, and all the forces in this world that rebel against God?

A: We do.

L: Do you believe in the Christian faith as we have just confessed in the Creed?

A: We do.

Baptism

L: Let us pray...

Gracious God, throughout history, you have used water to give life and show the world your power, mercy, and love. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all those who are cleansed by the waters of baptism so that they may be given new life and may be joined to Christ's mission for the world. Amen.

Quinn Nicole Everett is baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Anointing and Prayer

L: Quinn Nicole, Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we give you thanks that you give your sons and daughters new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life through this gift of water and the Holy Spirit. Bless Quinn with the gifts of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and the spirit of joy in your presence now and always. Amen.

Welcome

L: As we light Quinn's baptismal candle, we remember that we are families of faith and we are encouragers in faith. With that in mind, we have these important words of encouragement for them:

Congregation representative: Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

L: Let us pray for the parents and sponsors as they continue their ministry of family. Giver of all life, we give you thanks for Garrett, Katelyn, Liley, Justice, Josh, & Ally. Lead them to be teachers and role models of grace, mercy, compassion, and love for Quinn. Bless her with patience, strength, and faith so that she may know your gifts through them. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Let us welcome Quinn!

A: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Special Music: Jesus Loves Me.....**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,

A: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

L: ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

A: ² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

L: ³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

A: ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

L: ⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

A: ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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:** All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly **ELW 461**

***Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends with the words:

L: Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

***Sharing Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory Song:** Now Thank We All Our God (verse 1)..... **ELW 840**

**Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

***Offering Prayer**

L: Let us pray,

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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: Let Us Break Bread Together **ELW 471**
The King of Love My Shepherd Is **ELW 502**

***Prayer after Communion**

L: Let us pray,

**A: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of
your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

***Blessing**

L: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** Lord of All Hopefulness **ELW 765**

***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, Sunday School Kids and Bells of Praise

SCRIPTURE READER: Corrine Tims

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jerry & Tricia Dahl
