

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota
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Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**September 6, 2026**

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Prelude: Through Cathedral Windows..... **Helen Guthais**

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** We Are Called **ELW 720**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

A: Amen.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Compassionate God,

**A: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people,

following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

L: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without
your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and
lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Psalm 119:33-40

L: ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**A: ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

L: ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**A: ³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.**

L: ³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.

**A: ³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

L: ³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**A: ⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

L: The gospel of the Lord!

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children’s Message: Deacon Jessie Camp

Sermon: Pastor Shane Koepke

***Hymn of the Day:** Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace **ELW 716**

*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: 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 2)..... **ELW 840**

**Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.**

***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**

***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: Lord of Light ELW 688
Light Dawn's on a Weary World ELW 726

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

A: Amen.

*Sending Hymn: This is My Song ELW 887

*Sending

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: God the Omnipotent! Alexis Lowe

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: Angela Moller

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Doreen Pontow and Cleo Moller
