

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



June 21, 2026

10:00am

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

Three Variations on Foundation

Raymond Haan

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn *How Firm A Foundation*

#796

Apostolic Greeting

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

And also with you.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



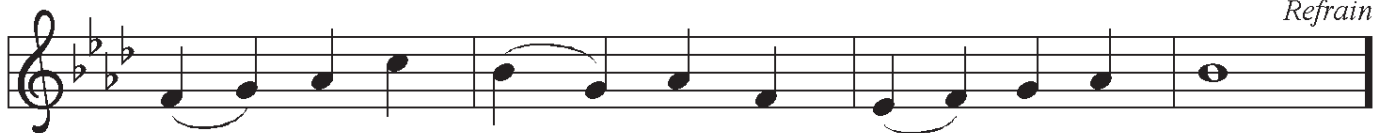
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 20

⁷O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,

and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The second reading is from Romans, chapter 6

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means!
How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us
who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we
were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised
from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of
life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly
be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was
crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no
longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we
died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ,
being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion
over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he
lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God
in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Gospel for today comes from Matthew, chapter 10 Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the twelve: ²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

#451

Apostles' Creed

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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

Michael Burkhardt

Offering Prayer

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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

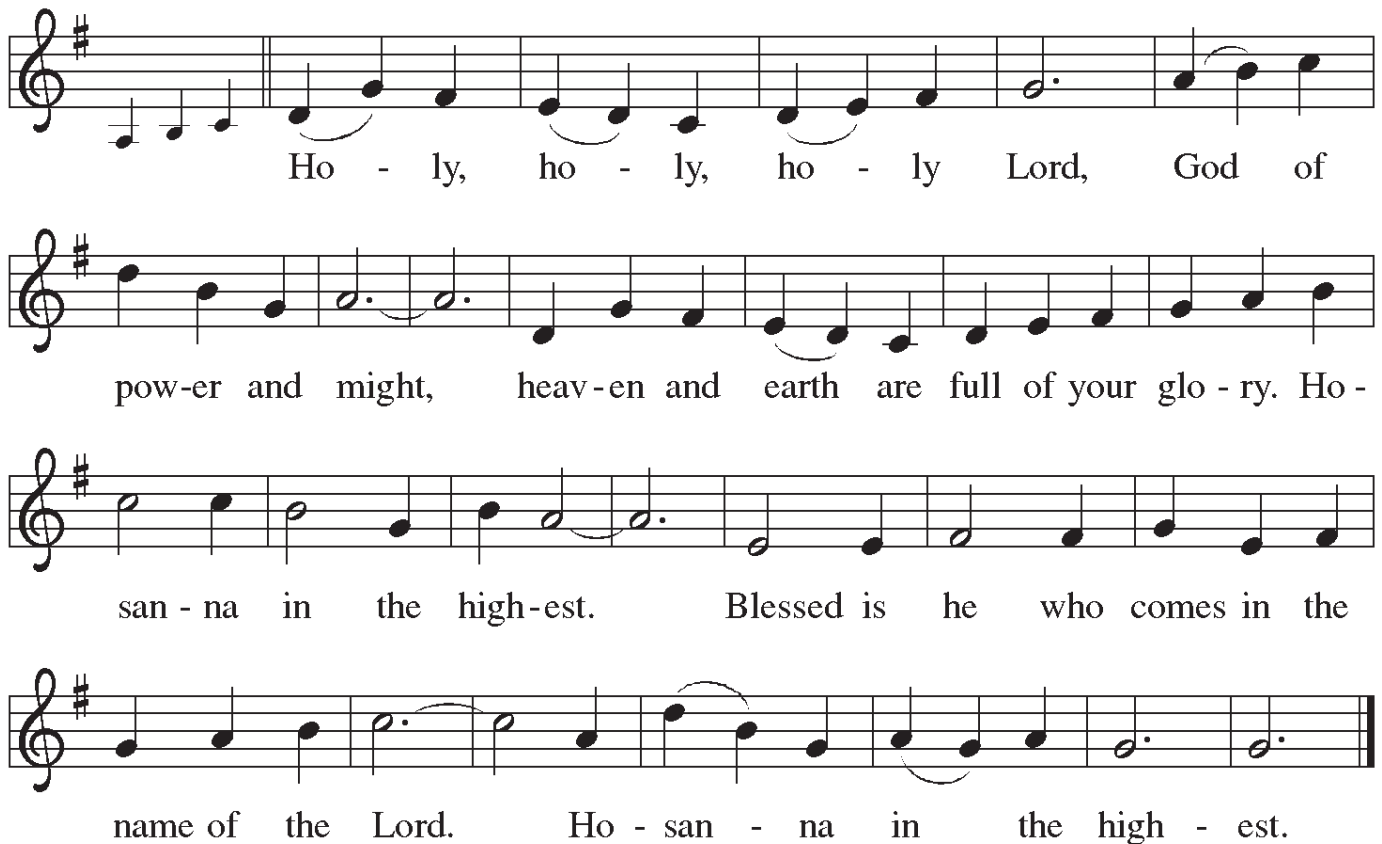
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Communion

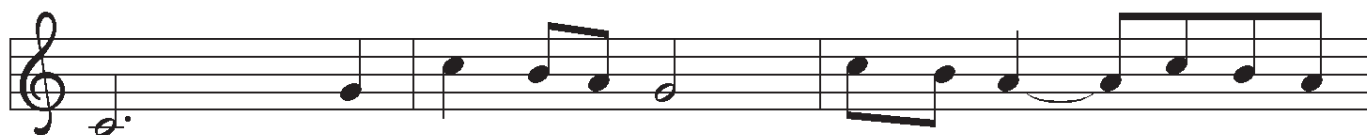
Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

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.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

#876

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prelude in G Major, BWV 541

J. S. Bach

Portions of service from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS103714

Licensing Permission

All music Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License # A-724795

Copyright

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus, 451, Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker

We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus, organ, arr Michael Burkhardt, ©1999 MorningStar Music Publishers

Three Variants on "Foundation", Raymond H. Haan, ©1998 MorningStar Music Publishers

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Reader: Barb Piper

Assisting Minister: Molly Wilson

Organist: Elaine Mann



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2026-6-21

A
N
N
O
U
N
C
E
M
E
N
T
S

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (21st)

Father's Day

Coffee Hour - 9:30am

Worship - 10am

MONDAY

Summer Camp - 6am

TUESDAY

Summer Camp - 6am

Grace Pacers - 9:30am

Prayer Group - 11am

WEDNESDAY

Summer Camp - 6am

Crafters - 9am

Text Study - 12noon

AA meeting - 7pm

THURSDAY

Summer Camp - 6am

FRIDAY

Summer Camp - 6am

SUNDAY (28th)

Coffee Hour - 9:30am

Worship - 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Grace Lutheran Foundation, Brighter than Sunshine, Grace Rising Wellness, ECWiT, Theater Guild

Christmas in July

We will be collecting Wish List items from Sojourner and Beacon House now through July 12th.

Sojourner: deodorant, bottled water, toothpaste, bug spray and sunscreen

Beacon House: paper towels, baby wipes, diapers size 4-8, new pillows and bath towels.

Labeled boxes will be placed in the Narthex.

Mission Outreach Ministry

Summer Activities

We are once again hosting the 2026 Sunsational Summer Camp with school age participants that will provide a lively environment in the Parlors and Memorial Assembly most weekdays. We are excited to join with the foundation, Grace Lutheran Communities, in making this opportunity available. This program is extremely popular and fills up quickly after the enrollment period opens. We will enjoy the sound of children's voices as well as the youthful and professional staff that make the program successful. The whole crew is frequently out in the community on a wide range of field trips. One

parent represents the experience of many when she says, “Ensuring my children have both an enjoyable and adventurous summer with trusting, responsive, and safe staff members is a top priority for me. Having the opportunity to partner with the Grace Lutheran Foundation’s ‘Sunsational Summer Camp’ for the last two year, has provided our family with just that!”



Summer Concert Band

The Eau Claire Municipal Band is starting their summer concert series. The band will perform at the Sarge Boyd Bandshell in Owen Park every Monday at 7:30 from June 8 to July 27. Hope to see everyone there!



Join our regular community walks around the neighborhood.

Grace Pacers

Tuesdays 9:30am / Starting June 16th
Meet in Memorial Assembly (1st floor)
(Rain day Thursday same week)

Duration: 30 minutes (approx.)

Pace: At your own pace

Age: All are welcome

Intensity: Low to moderate (no steep hills or stairs) with a variety of routes

What to bring: Comfortable walking shoes and your water bottle

Need a ride to join: Let us know!

Let's walk this road together!

Grace Walking Group

As our first response to the areas of interest expressed in the survey we took several weeks ago, weekly walks by the informal group we will call “Grace Pacers” will begin this Tuesday morning at 9:30am, weather permitting. This is a time to get to know each other better and to tend the bodies God has given us. The information is below. Thanks to Barb Piper for thinking through the details for us.

HISTORY OF GRACE

A strong faith in God and courage: the early church organizers were filled with both when they gathered on a bitterly cold January night in 1910 to organize Grace English Lutheran Church. There were 137 charter members.

After purchasing property at Second and Grand in 1912, it was another three years until the cornerstone was laid in September 1915.

Before the church construction was complete, services were held at the West Side Church and the North Side Church alternately. Pastor H.M. Thompson was the first pastor and conducted the Rites and Sacraments of the church for Grace's young congregation. The church building was completed in 1916 and the Grace family had a permanent home.

The story of Grace Lutheran Church is not just 100 years of historical facts. It is the story of its people and mission over the past 100 years.

Pastor Marcus Gravdal wrote on the occasion of Grace's 50th Anniversary in 1960, "Our 50th Anniversary tells us two truths. First, we have not been and will not be in doubt as to the direction of our life at Grace. It is FORWARD." In 2010, we confidently and joyfully move forward to the next 100 years — "Showered in God's love, we boldly invite, inspire and involve all people to make Christ known."



Laying the cornerstone, September 19, 1915
Dr. C.W. Weswig and Rev. A. Roseland. The congregation is seated in the open air.



Blessing Box

Summer is finally here and we still need food and other supplies for our Blessing Box. Our Blessing Box is open all year and we would like to keep it stocked especially in the summer months when many of us are away on vacation. Here are some of the items we need:

- cereal
- crackers
- soap
- packaged soup
- packaged noodles
- toothpaste
- tuna pouches
- packaged potatoes
- granola bars
- peanut butter

Since we are in the warmer months, we are able to collect any canned goods or liquid items.

You can drop off any donations outside the church office or at the Friendship Door. You are also always welcome to put any donations directly into the Blessing Box at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.



Get Together Over Ice Cream

In our effort to gather together more often, we are having an ice cream night out. We will meet at La Michoacana, 2410 London Road (Same plaza as Tokyo Restaurant, across the street and down a bit from Panda Express). They have 30 flavors of Ice Cream and 70 flavors of popsicles. If anyone needs a ride, let Pastor Phil know (715-577-1173). We also have some money to cover anyone who needs help. Ask Pastor for this as well. We don't want anyone who wants to come to have to miss!

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org



Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> Bulletins may also be found on the same page.

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <http://grace-church.org/our-ministry>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713

Bryan Willkom

“We need different metrics to measure church health / success / growth, etc. The traditional list looks like: attendance, membership, tithing, building size, # of baptisms, faith commitments, volunteers serving, social media reach, production quality, program size, \$ \$ \$, #'s #'s #'s. To be clear, none of these things are inherently bad, but they tend to reward attraction over transformation, scale over depth, consumption over participation, performance over presence, institutional survival over human flourishing. The scary thing is that a church can look “successful”, but completely missing the areas that matter to Jesus. New metrics could look like: connection, practice, health, neighborliness, accessibility, inclusion, stories of transformation, shared leadership, community wellbeing, etc.”

Old Metrics

- Seating capacity
- Attendance
- Programs
- Consumption
- Growth
- Platform size
- Members
- Sunday excellence
- Institutional survival

New Metrics

- Relational depth
- Belonging
- Practices
- Participation
- Transformation
- Community impact
- Neighbors
- Everyday embodiment
- Human flourishing