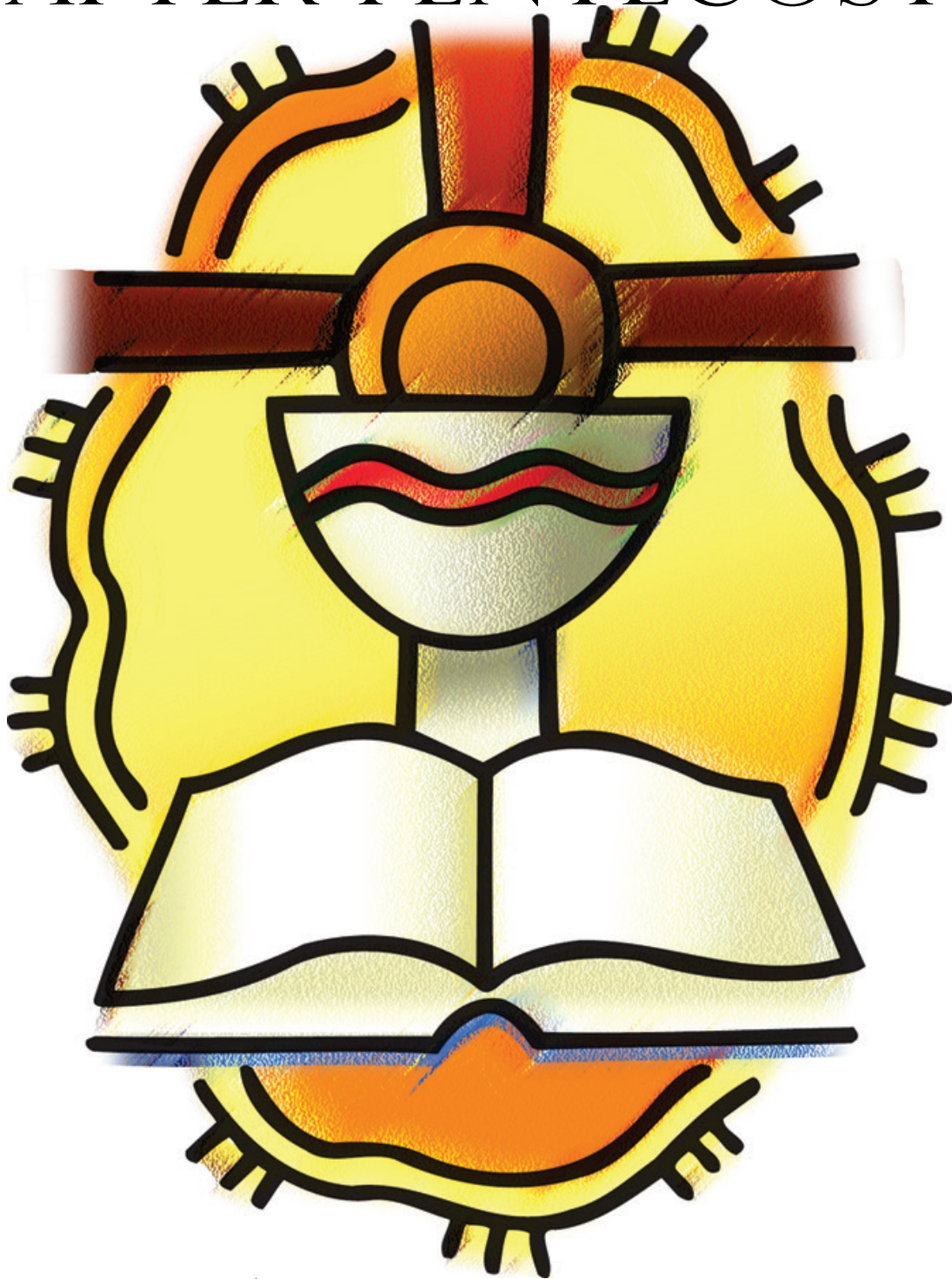


THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 23, 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

Trumpet Tune in C Major

David N. Johnson

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,

we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

#858

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.

Hymn of Praise

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



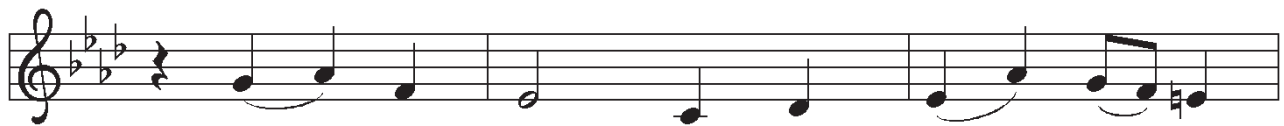
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



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.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from 1 Samuel Chapter 3

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. 2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

4 Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" 5 and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

6 The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. 8 The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

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

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

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.

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

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.

The second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 12

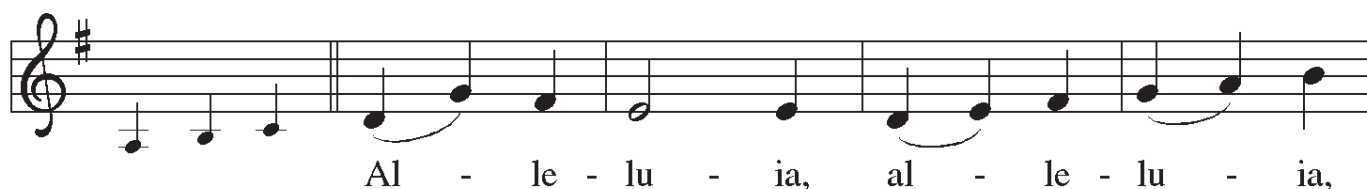
¹² Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

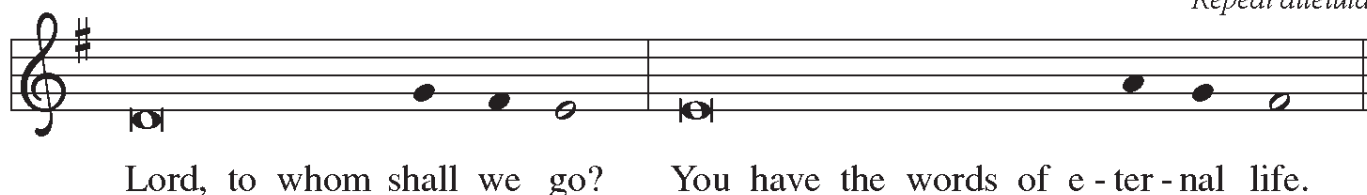
Anthem Here I Am Lord

Dan Schutte, arr Craig Courtney

Gospel Acclamation



Repeat alleluia



The Gospel for today comes from John, chapter 15
Glory to you, O Lord.

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more.

You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is — when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love.

That's what I've done — kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Gary Heath

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me!*

#595

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

... Merciful God,
 receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering Bless Now, O God, the Journey

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

Words of Institution

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.

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

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory

#705

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

Paul Manz



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Trumpet Tune in C Major, David N. Johnson

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Here I Am Lord, Dan Schutte, arr Craig Courtney, ©1993 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Minister: Rev. Gary Heath

Organist: Elaine Mann

Assisting Minister: Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones

Grace Choir Director: Wilma Hovland

Reader: Mitch Piper

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (23rd)

Gary Heath Ordination
Anniversary

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

*Supposed Death of Genghis
Khan – 1227*

Grace Pacers – 9:30am

Prayer Group – 11am

Church Council – 7pm

WEDNESDAY

*Declaration of the Rights of
Man approved – 1789*

Crafters – 9am

Text Study – 12noon

AA meeting – 7pm

THURSDAY

*British defeat Washington
at the Battle of Long
Island – 1776*

FRIDAY

*William Herschel discovers
Saturn's moon of
Enceladus – 1789*

SUNDAY (30th)

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

Ordination Celebration

This Sunday we celebrate Pastor Gary Heath's 50th anniversary of his ordination that happened at Grace Lutheran Church. Gary is Don's son and Jeff's brother. He served as the senior pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran in The Woodlands Texas until his retirement six years ago. Before that he worked in pastoral care and counseling in the Milwaukee area. He will preach and preside at communion. A cake reception will follow.

Pacibells Welcomes New Members

Our rehearsals begin on Sept 10, 6pm, in the choir room, we ring for worship on 3rd Sunday of every month. If you have an interest in ringing, please contact Karen Lionberger at: bellhog76@gmail.com

Blessing Box

Summer is rolling on 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.



Join our regular community walks around the neighborhood.

Grace Pacers

Tuesdays 9:30am / Starting June 16th
Meet in Chapel on 2nd floor off Sanctuary
(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**
LUTHERAN
202 W. GRAND AVE

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.

L.E. Phillips Senior Center SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 • 8 am-2 pm

Join us for an amazing showcase of area businesses that cater to the aging population at the Fourth Annual L.E. Phillips Senior Center Senior Resource Fair!

- 70+ vendor booths
- Tours of the Senior Center
- Craft & bake sales
- Gift basket raffle
- Over \$1,000 in door prizes
- Lunch available for purchase
- Open to all ages
- FREE Admission



L.E. Phillips Senior Center
1616 Bellinger Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703
Call: 715-839-4909
Visit: lep-sc.org

Additional parking and a shuttle will be available at the Stella Blues Parking Lot on Madison Street.

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Celebration of
Life Center
CHIPPEWA VALLEY
CREMATION SERVICES



Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

PO Box 965, Eau Claire, WI 54702

202 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

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