

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 27, 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

Schmücke dich

J. S. Bach

Welcome

Opening Hymn O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

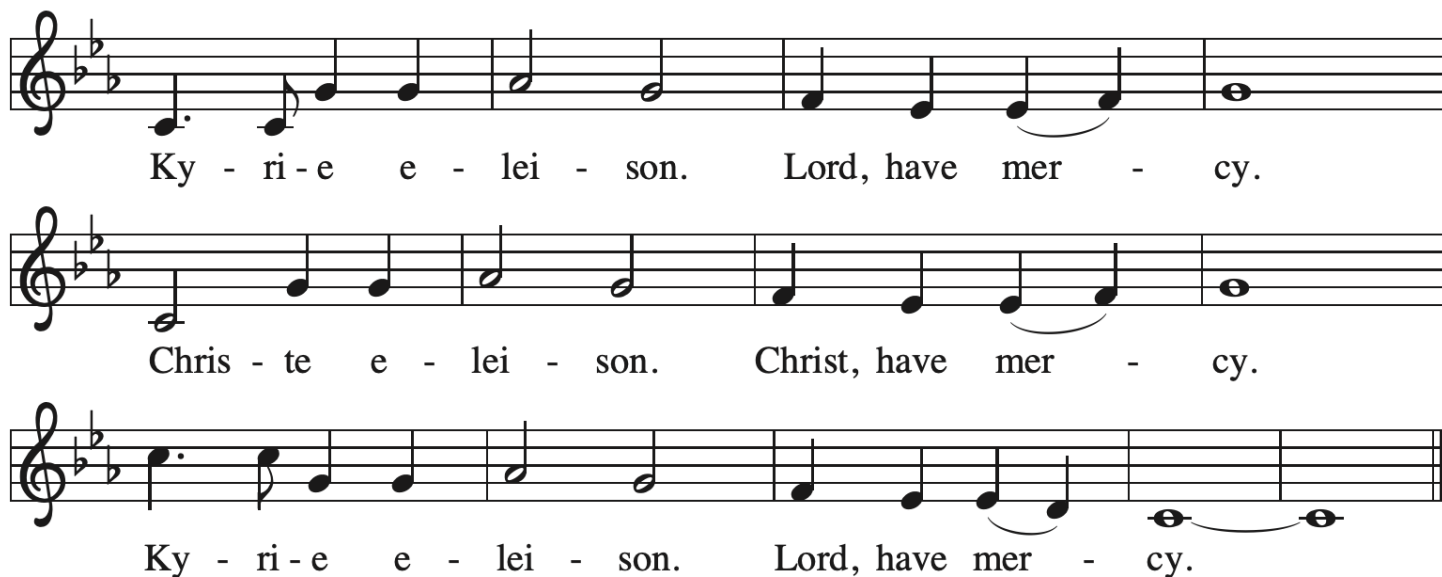
#351

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.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The First Reading is from Ezekiel, Chapter 18.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Jay Althouse

The Second Reading is from Philippians, Chapter 2.

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with
fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to
will and to work for his good pleasure.

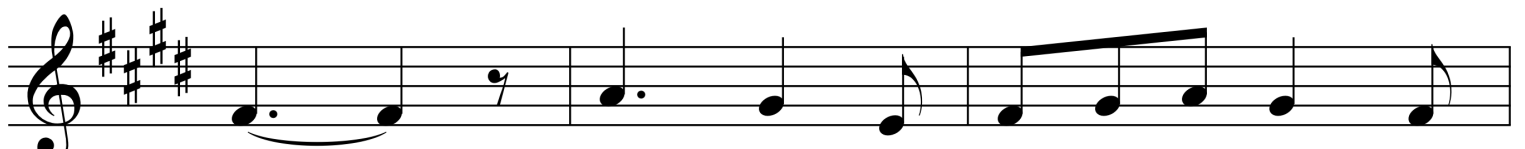
Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

The Holy Gospel for today is from Matthew, Chapter 21.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we

say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn When Memory Fades

#792

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering

Thy Holy Wings

John Ferguson

Offering Prayer

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.

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.

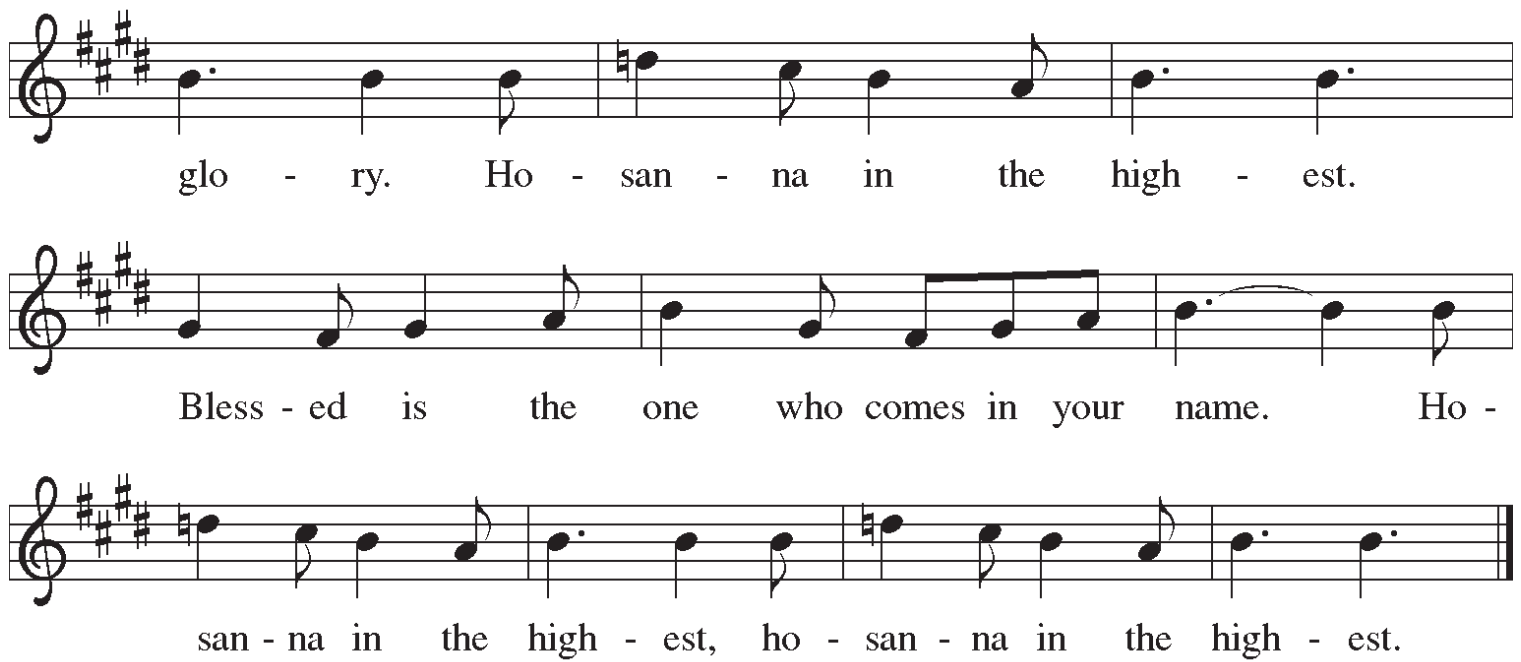
It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Great Thanksgiving

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (sing)

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 debts
 as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever. 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
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

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.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (verses 1, 2, 3, & Lent 5) #334

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

God the Father, Be Our Stay

Samuel Scheidt

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Assisting Minister: Pete Lokken

Reader: Dorie Schwellenbach

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Ryan Rogers

Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2026-9-27

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Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (27th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

Emergency Preparedness

Talk – 11am

MONDAY

*Pompey the Great assassinated
as he arrives in*

Egypt – 48 BC

Scouts – 6pm

TUESDAY

Grace Pacers – 9:30am

Prayer Group – 11am

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 9am

Text Study – 12noon

AA meeting – 7pm

Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

Alexander the Great defeats

Darius III at the Battle of

Gaugamela – 331 BC

ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

SATURDAY

Vercingetorix surrenders to

Julius Caesar, 52 BC

SUNDAY (4th)

Stewardship Sunday

Pope Gregory XIII unveils the

Gregorian Calendar – 1582

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, Randall Park Neighborhood Association

Stewardship Sunday

Swathed in Christ's love do not let hatred enter our hearts. Whisper or shout into the **air**, across the **sea**, **share** your **ideas** and **read** the lessons of Christ. Plant our seeds in good **dirt**, grow the **wheat** that becomes our bread and **share** with all.

Stewardship Sunday will be October 4 this year. Envelopes containing time and talent sheets and a pledge form will be sent out prior to the event. Or you can pick up an envelope that Sunday. Our Stewardship drive will run from October 4 through November 1.

Stewardship Sunday will have hot and cold treats, water, juice and maybe a surprise or two! Watch for upcoming Stewardship messages in the bulletin this fall.

Did you know that the word Stewardship contains over 1200 other words? Let us know how many words you can find. The one with the most gets a special treat! Send your entries to the office between October 4 and November 1.

Emergency Preparedness Education Event

After the worship service on September 27 we will have an emergency preparedness lecture given by John Moen. Topics will include how to develop a preparedness procedure not only for fire or similar disasters but what to do in the event of a flood, burst pipes, or how to get yourself or someone else to the emergency room. There will be a question and answer portion after the main talk. Everyone is invited.

Romans Text Study

Pastor Phil is presenting an 8 week study on Romans. This 8 week study begins Wednesday September 23rd. Wednesday October 14th there will NOT be a study. The study will be in the chapel, from 5:45 to 6:45. Study materials will be provided. There will be a soup dinner after. Each week's study will be repeated on Zoom on the corresponding Wednesday at 7:00. Please let the church office know if you will be participating. A "head count" is needed for materials.



5th Annual
**FALL ARTS
CELEBRATION**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1314 E LEXINGTON BLVD

ELCA CHURCH CHOIRS, MASS CHOIR,
HANDBELL CHOIR, SPECIAL MUSIC,
FINE ARTS EXHIBITION, TREATS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

**ART EXHIBIT 12-4PM
CONCERT 2-3PM**

Hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church

YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE
BAPTISM
OF

Hanna Pérez Tecpile

OCTOBER 4, 2026

6:00 PM

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR WORSHIP @
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3214 GOLF ROAD
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

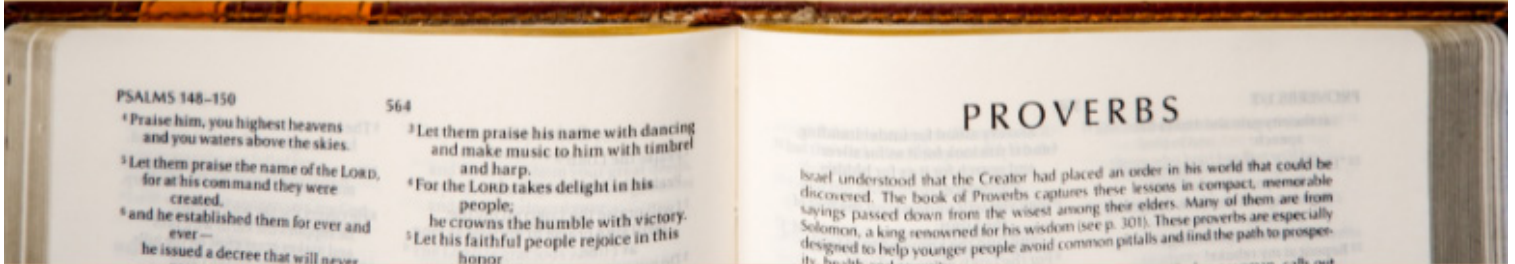
Share your voice

and serve our community by volunteering as a reader during worship!

Reading scripture during our services is a wonderful, low-pressure way to actively participate in worship.

Call or email the office to be added to the list of readers.

info@grace-church.org 715-832-9713



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