THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Case for Grace

August 19, 22 & 23, 2026

AS WE GATHER

Sometimes people at worship are seemingly surprised when the same hymn is sung at services two weeks in a row or even twice in the same month. Many hymns are chosen in a way that honors the statement of Martin Luther: "A good song may well be sung often" (*WLS* § 1839).Luther expressed this truism as he was commenting on how frequently telling and retelling the grace of God is a good thing for Christian people. He states in a sermon from 1537: "This is grace: the forgiveness of sins for the sake of the Lord Christ, the covering up of all sins" (*WLS* § 1839).Our lives are shaped by the amazing grace of God, for which, through our faithful worship, we offer our thanks again and again.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

VERSE

[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Romans 1:16

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

OPENING HYMN #566 "By Grace I'm Saved"

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace-grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

Pastor: May the LORD give strength to His people!

People: May the LORD bless His people with peace!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Gracious God, with contrition and repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as your servants. We indeed deserve your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in your mercy, we come to you for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves

but in the merits of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives lead us into ways that reflect your goodness and love.

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father andof the ✠Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB p. 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. ***Refrain***

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. ***Refrain***

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ***Refrain***

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 51:1–6* (The salvation of the Lord will be forever.)

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. **2** Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. **3** For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. **4** "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me,and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. **5** My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.**6** Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke,the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 11:33–12:8* (We are one Body in Christ.)

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! **34** "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" **35** "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" **36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers,[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.[b] **2** Do not be conformed to this world,[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. **3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members,[e] and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of

another. [6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; [7] if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; [8] the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,[f] with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)
HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13–20* (Jesus is confessed as the Christ, the Son of the living God, by Peter.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[13] Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked hisddisciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" [14] And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." [15] He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [17] And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." [20] Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.
Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "The B-I-B-L-E"

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that's the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, Its lessons help me see
the love of Jesus, God's own Son; the B-I-B-L-E

SERMON HYMN #744 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace-how sweet the sound-That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

SERMON

(Rise)
OFFERTORY LSB p. 192
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Rise)
CATECHISM *The Third Article*
Pastor: It is by the grace of God that we are called and gathered into the fellowship of the church where the Holy Spirit enlightens us and God's glory is known. Together we speak the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning as given by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism.
People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. What does this mean?
I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus

Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

Offering: As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

Saturday 5pm

INSTALLATION OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL & CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
O Lord, bestow upon us Your riches and wisdom. Grant us increasing knowledge of You through Your Word, and help us to trust in Your grace and favor. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, give the Church and all her servants grace to fulfill the ministries to which You have committed them.

People: Grant each of us the strength to confess Christ boldly before theworld.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, our God You are our life and our length of days.

People: Sustain and strengthen those who suffer sickness and affliction,

Pastor: especially Miriam, Nancy, Patrick, Sharon, Michael, Marlene, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Rhonda, Harland, June, Cathy, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill and Sarah and comfort all who mourn, Dan Vaclav, especially his wife, Gale Vaclav and family with the promise of everlasting life in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, You have redeemed us in Christ and declared us righteous and holy in Him.

People: Graciously grant that we may offer You our very selves as living sacrifices, that we may glorify You in all we think, say and do.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers.

People: Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ.

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to you, Lord our God, for you have come to redeem your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. By the working of your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us your grace that we may take up our cross and live our lives as sacrifices of service day by day. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven, we praise your glorious name.

SANCTUS LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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 thepower and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #575 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!
R*efrain*

HYMN #821 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us: Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim In the Eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

HYMN #761 "Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

COMMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that youhave given us to eat and to drink in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Holy Spirit, give us grace to live as your beloved people until that day when you will receive us as your guests in glory at the eternal Table of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #588 "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Preacher & Liturgist — Pastor Richard Schneider
Lectors — Marc Stefanic, Mark Richardson
Organist — JoLynn Bender

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