



TESTING BUILDS TRUST

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Seward, NE

July 25, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and personal assisted listening devices are available on request. The service can be heard throughout the building so that you can participate even if you have to take your child out for a while. Restrooms are in the hall between the chapel and fellowship area. If you have any questions please feel free to ask an usher.

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.gracesewar.org the member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Pianist

Cori Humann

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DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

OPENING HYMN

Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink | 405

- 1 Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink Of poverty or woe,
- 2 That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain Can lean upon its God,
- 3 A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt,
- 4 That bears unmoved the world's dread frown Nor heeds its scornful smile,
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown Nor Satan's arts beguile,
- 5 A faith that keeps the narrow way Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heav'nly ray Lights up the dying bed.
- 6 Lord, give us such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.

INVOCATION

please stand, if able

M In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION

M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

M For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C **Amen.**

GLORY BE TO GOD

Tune | 582

**All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**

**Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.**

**O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share.**

**You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 16:2-20

²The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat around pots of meat and ate as much food as we wanted, but now you have brought us out into this wilderness to have this whole community die of hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Watch what I will do. I will rain down bread from heaven for you, and the people will go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test whether they will follow my instructions or not. ⁵On the sixth day they will prepare what they bring in, and it will be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "At evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the

Glory of the LORD, because he has heard your constant grumbling against the LORD. Who are we that you should grumble against us?"

⁸Moses said, "Now the LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and as much bread as you want in the morning, because the LORD has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Tell the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling.' " ¹⁰As Aaron spoke to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward the wilderness, and suddenly the Glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses: ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Say to them, 'At evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' "

¹³So in the evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning a layer of dew surrounded the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew was gone, there were thin flakes on the surface of the wilderness, thin as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" because they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given to you as food to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: All of them are to gather as much of it as they need to eat. You are to take an omer per person based on the number of people each of you has in your tents."

¹⁷The Israelites did this, and some gathered more, some less. ¹⁸When they measured it with an omer, the one who gathered more did not have too much, and the one who gathered less did not have too little. All of them gathered as much as they needed to eat. ¹⁹Moses said to them, "No one is to leave any of it until morning." ²⁰However, they did not listen to Moses. Some of them left part of it until morning, and it became full of worms and stank. So Moses was angry with them. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 2:8-11

To the messenger of the church in Smyrna write:

The First and the Last, who was dead and came to life again, says this:

⁹I know your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich. And I know the blasphemy that comes from those who say they are Jews but are not; rather, they are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear anything that you are about to suffer. Look, the Devil is about to

throw some of you into prison so that you will be tested, and you will suffer for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

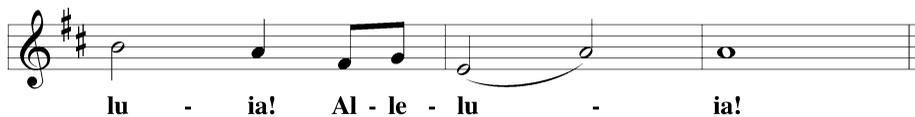
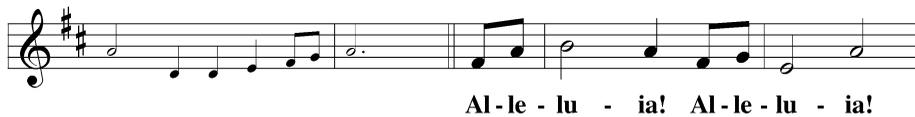
¹¹Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Alleluia.



GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-30

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to Mark chapter 7.

C Glory be to you, O Lord.

²⁴Jesus got up and went from there to the region of Tyre and Sidon. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, but he could not remain hidden. ²⁵Instead, when a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him, she immediately came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶This woman was a Greek, of Syro-Phoenician origin. She asked him to drive the demon out of her daughter.

²⁷Jesus said to her, "Let the children be fed first, because it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to their little dogs."

²⁸"Lord," she answered, "their little dogs under the table also eat some of the children's crumbs."

²⁹Then he said to her, "Because of this statement, go! The demon has gone out of your daughter."

³⁰She went home, found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone. (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me | **428**

1 Why should cross and trial grieve me?
Christ is near With his cheer; Never will he leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven
That God's Son For me won When his life was given?

2 When life's troubles rise to meet me,
Though their weight May be great, They will not defeat me.
God, my loving Savior, sees them;
He who knows All my woes Knows how best to end them.

3 God gives me my days of gladness,
And I will Trust him still When he sends me sadness.
God is good; his love attends me
Day by day, Come what may, Guides me and defends me.

4 Since I know God never fails me,
In his voice I'll rejoice When grim death assails me.
Trusting in my Savior's merit,
Safe at last, Troubles past, I shall heav'n inherit.

please stand, if able.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

OFFERING: WE PRESENT OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O almighty God, heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us a high priest, Jesus Christ, who knows our infirmities, having born them; who understands our temptations, having endured them; and who learned obedience by the things which he suffered.

C **O Lamb of God, teach us obedience through the tests you send us.**

M O Holy Spirit, when we are tested, deliver us by your power and save us from all evil. Protect us from falling in our times of testing. Help us to wrestle daily against the powers of darkness, which besiege us in every circumstance and position of life. Overthrow the evil Tempter in every assault on our souls.

C **Make us strong and show us the victorious power of your holy Word.**

M O God, if any among us be afflicted with suffering and pain, grant that they may experience your love and grow in their faith and trust in you. If any be sorrowful, give them the comfort of your promises. If any be in need, show yourself the source of all goodness. If any be dying, give them the confidence that though the earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, eternal in the heavens.

C **May the troubles we experience in life teach us to trust you completely.**

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

M Now, O Father, give your angels charge over all your people, to minister to their salvation, and to bring them safely through this world to that eternal kingdom which you have prepared for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Sacrament

Those who have prepared themselves and who have declared their fellowship with us through membership in this or another WELS or ELS congregation are invited to receive the Lord's Supper.

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord: who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Tune | 131

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26]

M Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the universe. Before the creation of the world, you chose to redeem us with the precious blood of your Son,

C **A Lamb without blemish or defect.**

M We give you humble and heartfelt thanks that by the mystery of Christ's holy incarnation,

C **You have made him our brother and helper forever.**

M By his birth, circumcision, and perfect obedience,

C **You have purified us from all sin.**

M By his baptism, fasting, and temptation,

C **You have become our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.**

M By his agony, bloody sweat, and cruel scourging,

C **You have crushed the head of our ancient enemy.**

M By his precious cross, death, and burial,

C **You have turned the gloomy portal of death into the bright gateway to the everlasting Eden.**

M Remembering your Son's death and resurrection, we receive in repentance and joy his body and blood. Strengthen us through this gift for our pilgrimage on earth until, together at last, we shall eat and drink with our Savior anew in the kingdom of God.

C **Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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

Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *John 1:29*



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 your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

What God Ordains Is Always Good | 429

- 1 What God ordains is always good; His will is just and holy.
 As he directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
 My God indeed In ev'ry need
 Knows well how he will shield me; To him, then, I will yield me.
- 2 What God ordains is always good; He never will deceive me.
 He leads me in his righteous way And never will he leave me.
 I take content What he has sent;
 His hand that sends me sadness Will turn my tears to gladness.
- 3 What God ordains is always good; He is my friend and Father.
 He will not let me suffer harm Though many storms may gather.
 Now I may know Both joy and woe;
 Some day I shall see clearly That he has loved me dearly.

4 What God ordains is always good. Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God grants relief,
My heart with comfort filling And all my sorrow stilling.

5 What God ordains is always good; This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with his arm
He will embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.

SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)

Tune | 289

please stand

**O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have 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 Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

God Moves in a Mysterious Way | **420**

1 God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

2 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He has a smiling face.

3 Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

4 You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and will break
In blessing on your head.