



WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

5N600 Hanson Road, St. Charles, IL 60175

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Sunday, September 27th, 2026 * 9:30 AM * INPERSON and ONLINE



18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

TODAY'S THEME: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.

Announcements are televised or found on our website

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

*Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.
We hope all people find it easy to follow along.*

We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.

GOD GATHERS US

PRELUDE

Sun of My Soul

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are found on our website

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG

Lord of all Hopefulness

ELW 765/Red Hymnal

Lord of All Hopefulness

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...God of love, giver of life,

C: 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And you also.

Depending on your comfort level, please share the peace with each other with a handshake and a smile.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Philippians 2: 1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

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

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

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

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

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

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, 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, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L: Word of God; Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



Children's Message

(Please rise for the reading of the Gospel)

GOSPEL: **Matthew 21:23-32**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

ALL: Glory to you O Lord

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to You O Christ!

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mercurio

SONG OF DAY

As Saints of Old

ELW 695/Red Hymnal



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 power of 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.

OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P: God of creation,

C: 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.

(An offering will be taken before the prayer.)

Offertory Music

Bread of Life

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online. Please let us know your prayer needs.

Please respond accordingly.



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

A brief silence.

P: Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by others and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.

P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**ALL: 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**

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion hymn

I Come with Joy

ELW 482/Red Hymnal

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,

C: 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.

CLOSING SONG

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537/Red Hymnal

On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

GOD SENDS US

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

High Praise

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Liturgy-Sundays and Seasons May 31, 2027

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ADDITIONAL WEEKLY LECTIONARY LESSON

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The fairness of God's way

Psalms 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

9/27/26 ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are donated today by George Theros on his 73rd birthday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday school has begun and will continue on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9:30am through May for children ages 3 – fifth grade. Our next time to meet will be on October 4th.

LINE DANCE LESSONS have begun and will continue through 12/8/26 **from 6:30-7:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. (Please note the half hour time change of the class.) Questions may be directed to Nancy Corbige [847-212-0237](tel:847-212-0237).

LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP BOWLING FOR ELCA CHURCHES 18 and older, bowl on 2ND & 4TH Sundays each month at St. Charles Bowl. Contact Nick Rex [630-742-5836](tel:630-742-5836) or email lutheranbowling@gmail.com if you are interested.

RUMMAGE SALE WEEK We are accepting donations on Wed & Thurs 10am-3pm; and we can use volunteers to help in many areas with 'unpacking' and set up during that time as well. Bring your own lunch if you're able to work through the lunch hour on Wed and Thurs and lunch will be provided on Friday and Saturday. We will have clean-up on Saturday at 2pm for those that can help at that time. Please see what your schedules allow – it is a wonderful community event and quite a bit of exposure to our church here in Lily Lake.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL We are currently full with 18 registered for the Monday/Wednesday mixed-age class. And we are also full for our new 2-year-old class on Tuesdays with 8 students registered. Cute quote: "Is that Jesus?" Some of the kids noticed that there is a stained glass window of Jesus in the cubby room. "He's keeping us safe!" said another kid. Thank you to God for all of these blessings!

SECURITY FOR PRESCHOOL Please be reminded that our Preschool policies are that all entry doors remain locked during preschool hours. (Mon/Wed: 9:15am – 1:15pm and Tues: 8:45am – 10:45am) If you need to come into church, we ask that you lock the door behind you, and of course ensure it is locked when you depart.

DIRECTORY FAMILY PICTURE Cara Turner is available for your family picture taking on Sundays at 9am, downstairs in first SS room/office on the left, and after church service until 11am. Please contact her if you have further questions or need to schedule a picture taking at your home – her cell #: 630-291-6896.

LECTORS ARE NEEDED for readings during our service. Please look for the sign-up sheet posted on the board in the Welcome area.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER is available on-line at www.graceoflilylake.org. If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please email the information to Marty Bradley by the 24th of the month: masbradley50@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Are you looking for ways to be a little more involved in our church each week? We have a variety of tasks that take place before and during each Sunday worship service, such as preparing communion and altar, reading our announcements and Bible reading, ushering, running the PowerPoint during the service. A variety of ways to be a part of our worship behind the scenes or up front. Please see Pastor for more information.

SHOE BOX COLLECTION in lower level outside of Fellowship Hall. Please help!

NOISY OFFERING We gratefully accept your "noisy offering" after each service. These funds add up and go towards our capital improvement projects.

OFFERINGS & FAITHFUL GIVING FOR THE MINISTRIES AT GRACE We are thankful and blessed with your offering and donations . Received as of 9/21 – \$ 6,366 (our weekly goal is \$4,000).

~ Blessings upon Grace in our 132nd year of ministry ~

VISIT OUR Website: www.graceoflilylake.org (.ORG not .COM)

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SERVICES

Get ALL the news you NEED there – including our weekly services

Our FACEBOOK PAGE for activities and posts of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceOfLilyLake/>

630-365-6751

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

- * God's Church in all time and place, that God be seen and heard.
- * As we face these times both together and while apart, keep us from fear, suffering and death.
- * Ministries and people of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod, especially Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop of the ELCA, and Erik Christensen, our new Bishop of the Chicago Synod.
- * Efforts of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Disaster Relief

FOR THE WORLD

- * For every living person facing the threat of war – it affects us all, our loved ones and our worldwide neighbors together.
- * For the healing of the divisions in our Nation.

FOR OUR CONGREGATION

- * For God's Spirit to guide the Vision Team, and whole congregation as we face transition and change.
- * As we plan regarding the future of our congregation.

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY (members, relatives, and friends of members of our congregation)

- * Nathan Sajdak, grandson of Bill and Lori U'Ren
- * William Delmer, grandson of Kirk and Kathy Hooey
- * David Brazee, Grandson of Steve and Cathy Lindquist

(If you know of someone currently serving our country, please share their information with the Church office.)

FOR ALL

- * The continued support of our members

- * For all members of healthcare around the world
- * For those serving as first responders and in the military
- * For our Nation, to extend peace in all things.

FOR THOSE SICK IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT...

For our “Grace Family” members: Betty Boor, Craig Bradley, Dan Burtnette, Travis and Lissa Brown, Lillian Carlson, Alexa Diehl, Natalia Diehl, Jan Docherty, Mitch Hendry, Kathy Hooey, Rich Jackson, Manfred Kaufmann, Kay and Paul Kinsel, Katie Kozeva, Pastor Dave and Carol Langseth, Tom and Lois Larkin, Ray Larsen, Pat and Chili Lindgren, Steve Lindquist, Joan Mortenson, Carol Nelson, Ed Nordwind, Mary Lindquist Rose, Nancy and John Schaefer, Norm Turner, Bud and Marilyn Wise, Wayne Whiteside

For our Families and Friends: Howard, Jim, Scott, Fred Alstadt, Barb Asher, Kathy Barton (mother of Tom Barton), Howard and Christine Baumert, Viola Bradshaw, Cindy Carlson, Joanie Chernick, David Diehl, Rebecca Eagen, Ted Ellingsen, Pat Eineke, Rachel Glancy (friend of the Lindgren family), Joyce Helander, Andrew Kinsel, Bob Koehling, Sally Kruthoff (daughter of Nancy Schnaitman), Gay Leslie, Janelle McDonald, Linda Mowers, Ray Navarro, Oksana & Maria, Donald Overby, Emily Peters, Mary Rose, John Schnaitman, Bob Stanley (Marty Bradley’s brother), Kelly Wilken, Ron Wilken, Greg & Val Williams, and Barbara Zegiel.

If you have requested that anyone (including yourself) be put on Grace's prayer list, thank you for your faith in our work of prayer! In order to keep our list current and accurate, we would like to hear from you regarding the need for continued prayer, praises and new requests. You may place these in a note in the offering plate, send them on-line via our prayer card on our website, leave them on the answering machine at church (630-365-6751) or speak with Pastor or Kathy Hooey. Aren't we blessed to have a God who listens and cares!

ALSO - Do you know someone who could use a reminder of our prayers and God's constant love? We have lovely **prayer shawls** all ready for delivery. Just call or see Vicki Linden for prayer shawls.