



~ *Grace Lutheran Church* ~
Welcome to Wednesday Evening Family Worship
7 pm ~ September 28, 2022

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota ~ 605-886-5737

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by 2 Timothy 1: 9-10*)

God has saved us and called us to a holy life—

**not because of anything we have done,
but because of his own purpose and grace.**

This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,
**but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior,
who has destroyed death**

and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Come, Let us worship our God.

GATHERING HYMN: “God is Here!” ELW 526

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks. We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion.

God of steadfast love,
you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy,
Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!

God of steadfast love,
you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy
Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty!

God of steadfast love,
you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy,
Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & MERCY *(inspired by 2 Timothy 1: 8-9)*

Hear the Good News: Saint Paul writes to Timothy:

*"Do not be ashamed of testifying to God,
who saved us and called us with a holy calling,
not in virtue of our works
but in virtue of God's own purpose
and the grace God gave us in Christ Jesus years ago."*

By that grace we are saved. Let us believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. If you would have the fullness of joy that God
has stored up for you, be you likewise gracious and forgiving. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray... **Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Pew Bible p 762

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

**³Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?**

**Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.**

⁴So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

**^{2:1}I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.**

²Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

**³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.**

⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Pew Bible p 966

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 17: 5-10

Pew Bible p 852

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from

plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(You may be seated)

REFLECTION

SONG OF THE DAY: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

ELW 759

1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe and know that Jesus is the Holy One of God.

**We believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God,
who was to come into the world.**

We believe that he is in the Father and the Father is in him.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

and that by believing we have life in his name. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. *(We greet you all in peace.)*

OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY of Grace Lutheran Church

OFFERING PRAYER: *(inspired by Luke 17: 6 and Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4)*

Let us pray... **Boundless God, help us to see the world differently— not with our own limited vision but with the gaze of love and justice.**

Give us the foolishness to believe that we can change what the world says is impossible; and when we lose sight of the power of love, like Habukkuk, search for ways of God.

We bring these offerings as symbols of our commitment and offer these gifts for the transformation of ourselves and our world for the good of all. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Servant God, be with those who are not seen and heard in the world, because of their gender or age; their status or race; their beliefs or lifestyle; their poverty or history. Open our ears and eyes, to hear and see all people as yours. *Lord in your mercy*

Hear our prayer.

God of little children, be with all children, wherever they live, whoever their parents are, whatever their needs, that they would all be welcomed and nourished, enabled to be all you want them to be. Open our hearts and arms, to welcome all your children. *Lord in your mercy*

Hear our prayer.

God of love, be with all who live with fear, fear of saying the wrong thing, fear of being labelled, fear of themselves or others, fear of you. Open us all to your endless love, that it might drive out fear. *Lord in your mercy*

Hear our prayer.

Teacher God, be with us all, as we struggle to make sense of your world and your word, as your church, in our communities, as your disciples. Open our minds and hearts, to learn from you. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

God of all, Father, Son and Spirit, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, offered from the darkness and hope of our hearts,

Amen

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 the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION: *(based on 2 Timothy 1: 1-14)*

As you go from here, may God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace. Do not let your faith or your witness grow cold.

Remember: God's gift of faith is like a flame; when the embers of that flame have cooled, you must fan them again to keep them ablaze.

So remember what you have been taught and what you have experienced. Live in such a way that all who know you may see the light of God reflected in you.

And may the grace of God, give life and free you from despair, the love of Jesus Christ, bless you with truth and peace, and the presence of the Holy Spirit guide you always in faith, hope, and love for the days ahead. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "Help Us Oh Lord"

Help us, oh Lord, to do what is right and wise.

Help us to see our brothers' needs that are in disguise.

Help us, oh Lord, to feel the pain in our sisters' eyes.

Teach us to live your kingdom here on earth.
Open our lives to treat each person with equal worth.
Remind us we're family; we're bound by baptismal birth.

We offer in joy what you first to us gave:
Ourselves, our time, the very things that our hands have made.
Receive them all now, this is our prayer in Jesus name.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, with faith in the Lord. **Thanks be to God. We Will!**

Announcements for October 2nd

Keep in your prayers - Those dealing with Health Issues:

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Shannon Beck, Joyce Brevier, Dennis Carlson, Stanley Crane, Jerry Dipprey, Dick Everson, Judy Everson, Sharlee Kjellsen. Sylvia Larson, Judy Lien, Lavern McPeek, Elvira Moen, Ronald Newell, Cleone Pekelder, Melody Quade, Rick Raml, Carolyn Ronke, Roger Rust, Randy Sangl, Caden Thompson, and Robert Wittrock, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are Homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, our Law Enforcement personal, Fire Fighters, EMT and all First Responders.

On the CALENDAR - For the week of October 2nd thru 9th

Sunday	8:30 am Traditional Worship service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Sunday school 11 am Contemporary Worship service 1 pm Services at Edgewood 1:30 – 2 pm Load the Truck of LWR materials.
Monday	8 am Lefse making begins (week 4) 1-4 pm Dorcus Quilters 5:30 pm Banquet 5:30 pm Foundation Meeting 6 pm – Choir practice
Tuesday	8 am Lefse making continues (week 4) 6:30 pm – First Communion Class (class 1)
Wednesday	10:30 am service at Avantara 6 pm Wednesday school

6 pm Confirmation Class in Basement
7 pm Family Worship in the Sanctuary
7:30 pm Youth Group meets in the Youth Room

Thursday 6 pm – Call Committee meets

Upcoming Events:

October 10: Indigenous Persons Day – Office Closed
October 13 & 15th: 1517 “Here I Still Stand” Conference (Pastor gone)
October 29th – Nordefest Plus
November 5th – Fall Craft Fair

Load the Truck for World Relief Sunday

The kits and quilts have been boxed up and ready to load on the truck for Lutheran World Relief. The truck is scheduled to be here around 1:30 to 2 pm today. If you can help in anyway, please be here as the work goes quickly with many hands to help.

First Communion Classes start Tuesday October 4th

Children in the 2nd grade on up are invited to First Communion Classes on Tuesday evening October 4th and 11th at 6 pm. Students are required to participate in two classes. Those unable to attend at this time, please contact pastor. Any youngster who has not yet taken First Communion class is encouraged to register with Pastor Cheryl by October 2nd at 605-237-1501 or Email: cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com. The students will take their first communion on All Saints Sunday, November 6th.

Choir Practice to be held on Monday's

Monday, October 3rd, those interested in joining the choir as asked to meet at 6 pm in the choir room. Mariam Raml and Kayla Mohling will co-organize the choir until a director is found. All members are welcome to join.

Faith and Blue forum Sunday, October 9th

The local Law Enforcement of Watertown will be at Grace for their *Faith and Blue* event next Sunday, October 9th at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend to share in this time of support and learn about our local law enforcement. This is a great opportunity to ask questions.

Faith and Blue is a national movement to build bridges and break down biases between law enforcement professions and the communities they serve through outreach and houses of worship.

Steve Rehorst, Administrative Division Captain and Police Chaplain Pastor Jeff Ruggels are working with area churches to hold these events to answer questions

and share this time with the people of Grace. All are encouraged to attend. Coffee and cookies will be served.

Bible Study starts October 19th

A study and discussion of God's prophets in the Bible and how these stories and scriptures relate to our world today will begin on Wednesday evening, October 19. The plan is to initially talk about what a prophet does, why God needs prophets, and why it is so important to read about prophets in the Bible.

Kayla Mohling will lead the discussions each Wednesday night from 6 to 7 pm in the library. Some of the major prophets will be covered focusing on one or two each week reading scripture pertaining each. The main objective is to inform and affirm that getting into God's word is part of strengthening our relationship with God, just as it did for the prophets. Prophets, just like us, sometimes doubt what God told them. The study will be held while the children are in Wednesday school, making it a great opportunity for parent to participate.

To register and receive an email outline prior to the study, email Kayla at: kayla.i.mohling@gmail.com. Bring your own Bibles.

**Check us out on our website at glcwtn.org
And Grace Lutheran Watertown FaceBook.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:
PASTOR: Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett Keyboardist: Isaak Montemayor
Sound/Video Tech Team**