**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**5th Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020**



***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

**Gathering**

**Even when we are apart, the Holy Spirit binds us together as the people of God.**

**Opening Hymn** ELW #742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**First Lesson** Zechariah 9:9-12

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God’s covenant with Israel, the people are designated as “prisoners of hope.”*

9Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
11As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

**Second Lesson** Romans 7:15-25a

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

15I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.  
  21So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25aThanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel** Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] 16“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,  
 17‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
  we wailed, and you did not mourn.’  
18For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 19the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”  
  25At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.  
  28“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

**Sermon** (Available at www.GraceGlenEllyn.org) Pastor Melody Eastman

**Apostles’ Creed**

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 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 Intercession**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed, especially Sigrid, Dorothy, Chris, David, Gary, Anita, Bob, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy and those we name before you now. . . Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children’s ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

**The Lord’s Prayer** Ecumenical Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ☩ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

**Hymn** ELW # 611 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Tom & Elaine Roete Members 52nd Anniversary (6/22)

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

David Dean Son of Lenore Dean Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

Gary Miller Member at St. Luke Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Bob Clauss, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

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**The July/August/September issues of *Christ in Our Home* and *The Word in Season* are in. Please let the office know if you would like to pick up copies of one or both and they will be placed in an envelope by the handicap door for easy pickup. Also, let the church office know if you would to have one or both mailed to you and which size you prefer. Thank you.**

**Seeking High School and College Students to help their neighbor:** Are you looking for things to do this summer? Would you be willing to help Grace members with errands or yard work? We are hoping to compile a list of students that would be willing to help homebound and elderly members with any yard work or errands that might otherwise be too difficult for them. Please let Becky Ficarella know if you are able to help!

**Virtual Compassion Camp VBS! July 13-July 17:** Virtual Vacation Bible School registration is available on Grace's Website until July 1st! Volunteer registration can be found here as well. We will need a lot of help with video editing, supply shopping and packing, and supply delivery to participants’ homes. We would be grateful for any support you can provide to this effort!

All links to activities and videos will be available through the end of the summer, so you have the flexibility to enjoy the lessons and activities in your own timing. Please email Becky Ficarella with any questions. [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org)

Grace’s **Restoring Worship Task Force** is working on the many issues that must be addressed before we feel ready to return to in-person worship. Because of the frequent changes in recommendations, the number of adjustments we must make to our site, and the upcoming holiday that limits the number of people available to implement new procedures, we are ***tentatively*** hoping to return on Sunday, July 12. Check the website or your *News From Grace*

e-blast for more details.

New on Netflix is ***Steel Magnolias***, a popular new series whose main characters all attend an ELCA congregation. One of the show’s developers intentionally identified their church as ELCA to highlight the positive impact of our denomination in people’s lives.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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