**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

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

**17th Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2020**

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

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*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.*

***For those gathering with a House Church via Zoom:***

***Please mute your mic during the hymns and the sermon video;***

***you may unmute it for the rest of the service.***

***If there is background noise in your context, please leave your mic muted***

***except when you are speaking a response in the liturgy.***

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Our sins are forgiven in the name of **☩** Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, let us live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW#801 Change My Heart, O God

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**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**

God of love, giver of life, 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.**

**Word**

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

**First Lesson Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

1The word of the Lord came to me: 2What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? 3As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.  
  25Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?  
  30Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 25:1-9**

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

1To you, O Lord,  
  I lift up my soul.  
 2**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,**  
  **nor let my enemies triumph over me.**  
 3Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
  rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.  
 4**Show me your ways, O Lord,**  
  **and teach me your paths.**   
 5Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
  for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.  
 6**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,**  
  **for they are from everlasting.**  
 7Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
  remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.  
 8**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;**  
  **therefore you teach sinners in your way.**  
 9You lead the lowly in justice  
  and teach the lowly your way.

**Second Lesson 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.*

1If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.  
  
9Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
  
12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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.**

***(Please mute your mic)***

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

**Gospel Matthew 21:23-32**

*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.*

23When [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?” 24Jesus 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. 25Did 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?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So 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.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which 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. 32For 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.”

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

**Sermon**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**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**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spiritespecially Marilyn, Sigrid, Chris, Dorothy, Anita, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now. . . Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died. Comfort all the family and friends of Marty Friend and Ramon Jacobo who mourn their deaths, and comfort them in the promise of eternal life. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. Lord in you mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community especially Food Pantries, Walk-in Ministry, and PADS; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.)*

**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.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

Mothering God, Father, **☩** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and lead us into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #535 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Family and Friends of Marty Friend Sister of Pr. Melody Comfort in Grief

Family and Friends of Ramon Jacobo Father of Joe Jacobo Comfort in Grief

Marilyn Goodrich Member Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**State of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MCS) Video Event:** The 2020 Synod Assembly has been postponed. Nonetheless, the bishop and synod staff are planning to offer some virtual time for MCS members and congregations to reflect and celebrate.  
On **Saturday, October 3 at 10:30am**, we will be premiering a video event on the MCS Facebook and YouTube pages. You may watch the video, commenting and participating with others as it is premiered, or you may watch it after the event at a time that is convenient for you.    
The video itself will highlight stories from MCS congregations, songs submitted from various ends of the synod, and brief reports from the bishop and synod staff. Think of it as an audio and visual online celebration of God’s Spirit at work in and through our communities and at the synodical level. The video will be accompanied by a full written report from the bishop.  
We hope to see you on October 3!

**Fellowship at St. James Farm, Sunday, October 4:**  We are so excited to gather for some social distance fellowship with you next Sunday morning at 11:30am at St. James Farm located at 2S541 Winfield Road in Warrenville. This is a fellowship event only and NOT a worship service. We will still be virtually meeting with our House Church groups at 9:30am. Please remember to bring your face mask, and a sack lunch if you would like to. There is some seating available at picnic tables, but bringing a blanket or lawn chair is a good idea too. We look forward to seeing you and having a nice outdoor visit. We hope you will join us!

**Blood Drive, Saturday, October 10, 9:00-1:00pm:** From Brad Goertzen: Usually we try to have a summer blood drive but for several reasons we have been unable to do so this year. Versiti, formerly Heartland, was very understanding when we had to cancel our July standing appointment.

However, they have contacted us again because they are in need of donations now more than ever. They have assured us that they can safely coordinate a drive where we all are physically distanced and protected with masks. A Q&A handout is available if you have questions about the safety of donations during this pandemic.

Additional good news is that every donation taken will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies. This will confirm whether or not you have been exposed and recovered from virus.

Please consider giving a donation and passing along the request to friends and family. You can sign up today at the following link to donate:

<https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5580681>

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We will have 4-5 “House Churches” of worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) Those of us that have experienced House Church have found this to be a very sacred experience. Pastor Melody will join one House Church each week on a rotating basis to celebrate communion. If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we’ll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. And the best part!? Inviting friends to join us is always welcomed!

Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements) or contact Becky Ficarella directly at 847-347-0928 or [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org).

**Tuesday Evening House Church Worship every Tuesday evening at 7pm!** Are Sunday mornings at 9:30am not a convenient time for you to worship? Come join Becky Ficarella for an Evening Worship opportunity on Tuesdays at 7pm. Please register on the Grace Website or contact Becky and let her know that you would like to be a part of the Tuesday Evening House Church.

**"Cars Under the Stars" Jazz Concert Food Pantry Fundraiser, Friday, October 9:** Join the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry for a drive-in concert featuring popular gypsy jazz musician, Alfonso Ponticelli, in "Cars Under the Stars" on **Friday, October 9th from 7-9pm**. He's been featured at the legendary Green Mill jazz club and we're excited to host him in the parking lot at Faith Lutheran Church (41 N. Park Blvd). A suggested donation of at least $50 per car is requested in order to support the capital campaign for renovating our new home. Enjoy the concert from your car (limit 4 people per car) and please keep in mind that no refreshments will be available due to COVID-19 guidelines. This special event is expected to sell out so register soon!

[**https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\_s-xclick&hosted\_button\_id= U5C5KQEX5E4ML**](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=%20U5C5KQEX5E4ML)

**Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricane Laura and U.S. Wildfires:**Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response which are assessing the immediate needs and initiating a response. While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is our commitment as a church.  
**What you can do: Pray -**Please pray for people who have been affected by hurricanes and wildfires. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.  
**Give:**Your gifts designated for **“**[Hurricane Response](https://stlukeglenellyn.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee9d5e8f0f660ac5ab463e199&id=0a5b7bf6e2&e=c669907788)**”** or “U.S. Wildfires Response” will be used entirely (100%) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes or wildfires.   
**Give Online:**  https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief or https://community.elca.org/uswildfires   
**Give by Mail:**  *Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response. Write "Hurricane Response" or “U.S. Wildfire Response” on your check's memo line and send to:***Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116**  
**Give by Phone:**Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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