**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

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

**Reformation Sunday October 25, 2020**

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

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God’s grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

**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#505 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

sts. 1, 2, 4

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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**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Word**

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

**First Lesson Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 46**

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*

1God is our refuge and strength,  
  a very present help in trouble.  
 2**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,**  
  **and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**  
 3though its waters rage and foam,  
  and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
 4**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**  
  **the holy habitation of the Most High.**  
 5God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
  God shall help it at the break of day.  
 6**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;**  
  **God speaks, and the earth melts away.**  
 7The Lord of hosts is with us;  
  the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
 8**Come now, regard the works of the Lord,**  
  **what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**  
 9behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
  who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.  
 10**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;**  
  **I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**  
 11The Lord of hosts is with us;  
  the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Second Lesson Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

19Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.  
  21But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.  
  27Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

31Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”  
  34Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

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

**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**

With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm’s way. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill *especially* Marilyn, Sigrid, Chris, Dorothy, Anita, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now. . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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

**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.**

**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 #779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

sts. 1, 2, 4

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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 of AnnMarie McFarland Friend of Grace 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**

***All Church All Saints Service on Zoom at 9:00 am!***  Join our “live” zoom worship service to give thanks to God for your loved ones who rest in Christ. Have a candle ready and take part in the special All Saints Day liturgy to lift up the names of those who have gone before us into God’s glory. We remember all the saints with thanksgiving—especially because their witness gives us strength in challenging times like these. Zoom link will follow. **Again, note that this service begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.**

**Commitment Cards for 2021** have been mailed. Please return yours to the office, or you can submit your commitment on Grace’s website. Your support remains critical; thank you for your prayerful response!

**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 (on the main page Announcements) or contact Becky Ficarella directly at 847-347-0928 or [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org).

**PADS - Public Action to Deliver Shelter:** PADS has come up with a plan to feed the people who have been housed in hotels.  Grace has been asked to supply 110 adult meals and 40 child meals and deliver them to three hotel locations (50 meals for each location) at 4:00pm. (Meals must be store bought or restaurant bought, no home cooking at this time. Fruits, individual vegetables and individual desserts are also appreciated.  Joe and I have an extra-large freezer so we can store meals if people want to purchase them ahead of time. Meals can also be brought to Grace left in the upstairs gym kitchen freezer.  There will also be a box at Grace for the fruits, veggies, and desserts. Joe Jacobo will pick them up from Grace on the Tuesday afternoon of our PADS date.

1)   First Tuesday of each month we provide 50 meals to each of three locations.  I've adjusted our schedule to just have three categories:

     a. Meal - Six store/restaurant individual meals that can be heated in a microwave as not all guests have access to a stove-top. Bagged meals (like Bertolli skillet meals) count as multiple meals.  Meals can also be the non-frozen meals found in the isle with the canned chili.

    b.  Juice Boxes for our children - they can be any non-water drink - all guests have water available to them.

     c. Extra - this can be fruit, vegetables or individually packaged snacks.  This will give us something extra to add to the meal bags.

2)   We also need a minimum of four volunteers to help with the delivery of the food.  At about 3:30 meet to make up the food bags.  At 4:00 arrive at the hotels to deliver the food - it takes just under an hour.  If you can volunteer, please let one of us know (Joe (630) 740-4527; me (630) 740-4542).

Once we have the meals we put them in grocery bags by room (most rooms are single adults but some have two or more adults and up to six children).  We deliver the meals to the rooms.    If any guests don't want their meals or are not home to accept them, we deliver them to the offices located on site for the Red Roof Inns and just a short drive away for the Extended Stay.

Hotels are: Red Roof Inn, 1113 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove; Extended Stay, 3150 Finley Road, Downers Grove; Red Roof Inn, 1698 W Diehl Road, Naperville.

Thank you for all of your support of the PADS program.

Donna Jacobo, Grace PADS On-site Food Coordinator

(630) 740-4527, [donnahjacobo@yahoo.com](mailto:donnahjacobo@yahoo.com)

Sign up for **AmazonSmile** and pick Grace Lutheran Church as your charity of choice:

Remember to shop at AmazonSmile when making purchases online. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Here is the link for Grace Lutheran:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438>

When you sign on, you will see “Supporting Grace Lutheran Church” in the upper left hand corner. Then just shop as you normally do. There is no cost to Grace or to you, the customer. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to Grace.

**Food Pantry Drive-Thru Food Drive:** Held on the first Friday of every month at Grace Lutheran from 9am-Noon. Most urgently needed items this week include: Chicken/Beef Broth, Shampoo/Toothpaste/Deodorant, Paper Towels, Pickles/Relish, Jelly, Sugar/Flour, Apple Juice, Flavored Rice-A-Roni, Boxed Baked Goods.

**The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry presents a Fundraising Telethon:** Join the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry for an online variety show benefitting the capital campaign Building Fund. Viewers will enjoy an old-fashioned telethon featuring acts by local entertainers on Sunday, Nov. 1 starting at 6:30pm. A link to the event is free, and during the show, the Pantry will share news about their capital campaign which will expand hunger relief efforts in the community. The goal is for viewers to be inspired to donate by calling phone lines staffed by volunteers, or online, to help reach their campaign goal of $900,000 needed to renovate their new, larger home.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

**Phone: 630-469-1555 Emergency Pastoral Contact: 630-674-2887**

[**info@graceglenellyn.org**](mailto:info@graceglenellyn.org)[**www.graceglenellyn.org**](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**Pastor**

Rev. Melody Eastman office ext. 14

[meastman@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:meastman@graceglenellyn.org)

**Minister of Music**

Bradford Thompson 219-718-8879

[bradfordmthompson@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordmthompson@gmail.com)

**Ministry Associate**

Becky Ficarella office ext. 17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

**Office Manager**

Barbara Sudds office ext. 10

[bsudds@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bsudds@graceglenellyn.org)

**Parish Counselor**

Carole LoGalboM.S., LCPC 630-668-4594

[carolelogalbo@yahoo.com](mailto:carolelogalbo@yahoo.com)