

# Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310



...how often should  
I forgive?  
"Not SEVEN times,  
but, I tell you,  
SEVENTY-  
SEVEN  
times."

*Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV*

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2011

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

*The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of  
God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection  
to all to be free to be the people of God.*

# Welcome to Worship at Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

**Prelude**

**“In Thee is Joy”  
“Now Thank We All Our God”**

**Manz**

**Bach, arranged by Held**

*(Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation)*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn**

**“Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”**

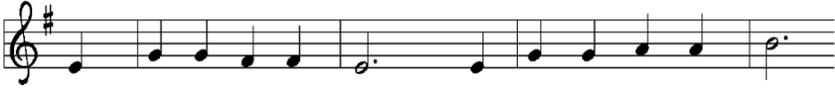
**#858**

## Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

## Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Canticle of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

C: **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### Commissioning and Blessing of Teachers

*sit*

#### First Lesson

#### Genesis 50:15–21

*After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

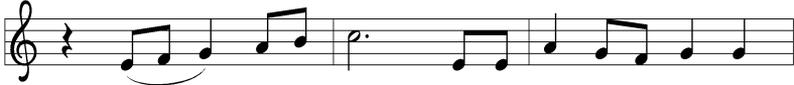
<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have

no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm



R:

Lord, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,



of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

### Psalm 103:1–13

R <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's <sup>1</sup>holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul, and forget not <sup>1</sup>all God's benefits—**  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives <sup>1</sup>all your sins and heals all <sup>1</sup>your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life <sup>1</sup>from the grave and crowns you with**  
**steadfast <sup>1</sup>love and mercy; R**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires <sup>1</sup>with good things so that your youth is  
renewed <sup>1</sup>like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide <sup>1</sup>vindication and justice for all who <sup>1</sup>are**  
**oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your <sup>1</sup>ways to Moses and your works to the chil-  
dren of Israel.]

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- <sup>1</sup>sion and mercy, slow to anger and**  
**abounding in <sup>1</sup>steadfast love; R**

<sup>9</sup>you will not al- <sup>1</sup>ways accuse us, nor will you keep your an- <sup>1</sup>ger  
forever.

<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according <sup>1</sup>to our sins, nor repaid us**  
**according to <sup>1</sup>our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- <sup>1</sup>bove the earth, so great is your steadfast  
love for <sup>1</sup>those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is <sup>1</sup>from the west, so far have you removed our**  
**transgres- <sup>1</sup>sions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion <sup>1</sup>for his children, so you have compassion  
for those who fear <sup>1</sup>you, O LORD. R

**Special Music**                      **“Words I Would Say”**      **Sidewalk Prophets**  
Corey Schmidt, Pastor Mike Schmidt, Rob Ankum,  
and Kurt Bowermaster

**Children’s Sermon**

**Second Lesson**

**Romans 14:1–12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those, who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*stand*

## Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Eighteenth Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel

**Matthew 18:21–35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." <sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow

slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*sit*

**Sermon**

*stand*

**Hymn**

**"Now Thank We All Our God"**

**#840**

**Creed**

**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

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**All: God of love, pour out your unifying Spirit upon us. We give you thanks for the blessing of this community of faith. Continue to awaken your gifts in us so we can faithfully build up the body of Christ. Strengthen us to answer the call to the work of your ministry here at Grace. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.**

## Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

**C: And also with you!**

*sit*

## Announcements

## Litany for the church

P: Let us pray.

**C: Have mercy, O God**

## The Offering

Offertory

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Burkhardt

*stand*

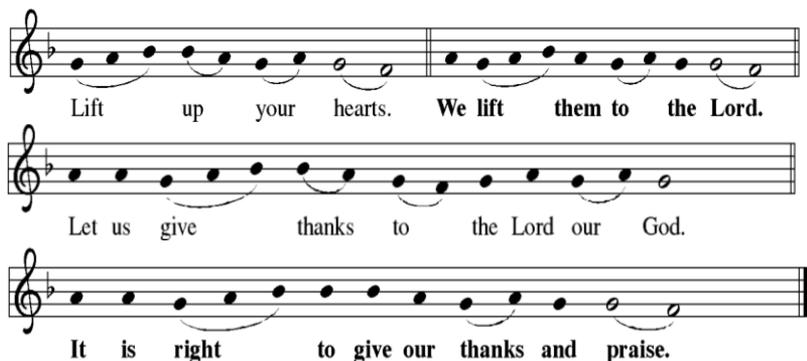
## Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

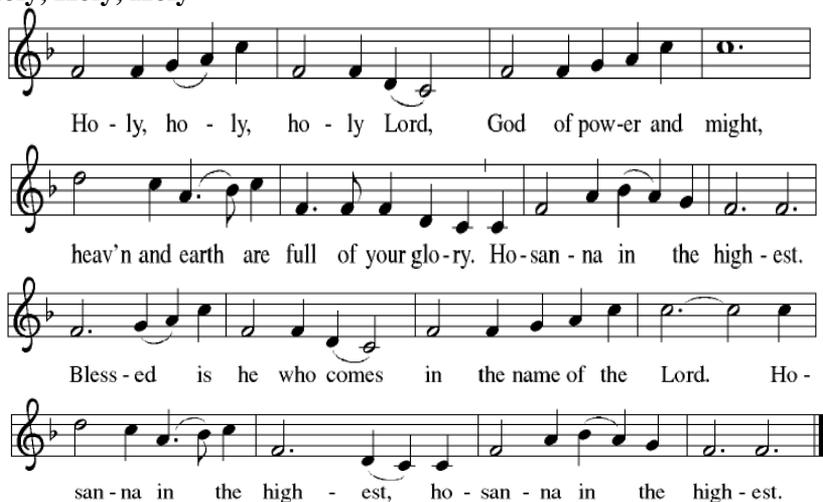




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

### 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**

### Invitation to Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to the table prepared before you. Taste God's goodness and mercy.

*sit*

### Communion Song



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Distribution Hymns: #593, #496, #483**

**Communion** – We welcome all people to the Lord’s Table to receive Holy Communion. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing.

*stand*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C. Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God our shepherd, you have gathered us again from scattered places and nourished us with rich food in word and sacrament. Go with us now, that we may seek the lost, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak, until you gather us and all the saints into your eternal feast with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. The Lord is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**“In Thee Is Gladness”**

**#867**

**Postlude**

**“Now Thank We All Our God”**

**Burkhardt**



**If you are not able to come forward to take communion,** please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastors will commune you in your pew.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

**In our prayers:** Norman Buihner, Shirley Dyson (Sandy Brigg's mother), Vivian Feilmann, Helen Richards, Sandra Roehrick, Tom Russell, Sharon Sindergard, Stuart Turner, Sarah Williamson, and the others we name before you...

**A nursery is available** if your children become restless during the service. Heather Nelson or another daycare staff member will be the attendant each Sunday morning. If there is no one in the nursery, check in the daycare office. Another option is to sit with them in the Gathering Hall for a while, as the service is also broadcast there.

**Flowers on the altar** are given to the glory of God by Diane and Lonnie Jessen and in celebration of family and their anniversary.

### Education Opportunities

*This morning:*

**Rally Day today!** You won't want to miss out on the festivities and fun entertainment planned! In addition, children will have an opportunity to meet their Sunday School teachers for the year. Let's get the coming year off to a super start! See you in Grace Hall!

*Next week:*

**Adult Bible Study** meets Tuesday mornings, from 8:45–10:15a.m., or Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads this study.

**Text Study** on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Leonard Larsen and Mark Mattes lead this study.



**Super Wednesday suppers** are from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Grace Hall I. Join us! Grace Staff will be serving chicken salad croissants, corn on the cob, watermelon, and ice cream.

**A Stephen Minister** is available in the upper room between services for people who need a listening ear, encouragement and prayer support.



**Happy Birthday to the following people this week!**  
John Schall, Duleep Singh, John Trickle, Anne Farrell, Rhonda Jensen, Katelyn Jessen, Laural Brown, Richard Voelker, Lorna Johns, Karen Mann, Michael Schmidt



**Happy Anniversary to:** Lonnie and Diane Jessen, Larry and Janice Nordeen

*Did we miss your anniversary? We may not have your anniversary in our records. We hope that you will consider sharing the information so that we can share it with you. There is a clipboard in the office, or you can simply call or email the church office. Thank you!*

### **Grab a friend, plan a meal and cook for Super Wednesday!**

Individuals, pairs, or groups are needed to prepare and then serve a meal each Wednesday evening at 5:00. We have suggestions and menus to make your planning easy. It's a great way to meet new people and have fun with old friends at the same time. Questions? Call Jane Ridnour at 277-6838.



**Today! Have fun!**

### **Confirmation Retreat**

Saturday, September 17, 9-noon at Grace, continuing in the afternoon at Honsey farm. Look for a letter in your mailbox, and sign up in Grace Hall today.

### **Calling all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders!**

Are you interested in becoming an acolyte? All who are interested should come for training at Grace on Saturday September 17, from 9-10 a.m.



**Lutheran College Fair:** If you have a college bound student in your family, mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 13. Lutheran college admissions representatives will be available in Des Moines to answer questions about admission, academic programs, student life, housing, and financial aid, and a workshop on financial aid and planning will be conducted as well. All families who attend will receive 4 application fee waivers. Please visit [www.lutherancolleges.org](http://www.lutherancolleges.org) for more information about the event. Posters can also be found on the Children, Youth, and Family bulletin board and on the door of room 302.

## **College Care Packages**

Grace's college members are hopefully settled into their school year. We would love to let these young adults know they are thought of and that they continue to be a part of our church family. We will send our best wishes and encouragement to them by mailing a few care packages throughout the school year.

On Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> we are collecting small snacks to place in packages for 6 college students. We are looking for donations of small snacks, such as: individual microwave popcorn packages, granola bars, trail mixes, hard candies, small boxes of raisins, individual hot chocolate mixes, individual soup mixes, or other small snack food items that we can place in a 10 ½ by 15 padded envelope. It would be most helpful if one item is selected and a donation of 6 of that item is given. Thank you! Please place donated items on the display table marked College Care Packages in the Gathering Hall on Sept. 18. You also will find cards for each student. Please feel free to jot a note of encouragement.

If you have a college student and have not yet provided an address please contact Stephanie. (276-6873 or [stephaniejohnson@q.com](mailto:stephaniejohnson@q.com))

**Paint the church walls!** New, fabulous murals have been sketched on the Sunday School room walls, and painting has begun. We would love your help – contact Cherie Rissman @ 270-0278 to join the painting party.

## **Quilting and Sewing Morning**

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. to noon in Msindo Hall.

All are welcome - sewers, non-sewers, men, women, teens and children - to help make Lutheran World Relief quilts. (*Children under 12 should be with an adult.*) Contact Beth Flannery, 288-5880, if you have questions or if you have a portable sewing machine that you could bring.

**Display case:** Over the past months we have enjoyed a variety of collections, artwork, and handiwork and would love to include *yours*. The case is located by the north wall of the Gathering Hall, and there is now a sign-up sheet hanging on the wall to the left of the case. Please feel free to sign up under available months (two-month periods). Include your name and type of display, and contact Stephanie Johnson to arrange for the key and a set-up date. The display case is a fun way to share our interests and talents with each other. *What would you like to share?*

## **Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!**

Visitors and members are asked to sign the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the Welcome Center.

Pastor – Michael Schmidt

Director of Laity Ministries - Stephanie Johnson

Grace Kids' Care Director - Heather Nelson

Office Administrator - Jackie Holmes

Building/Grounds - Luis Reaza

Latino Communications Coordinator - Claudia Castillo

Receptionist - Diana Johnson

Office Assistant – Michelle Voelker

Interim Organist – Rich Snyder

Ushers – Marv Simonsen, Jon Rissman, Jim Rundle

Liturgist – 8:15 Doug Johnson; 10:45 Ro Zimany

Lector – 8:15 Julie Honsey; 10:45 Kate Schaller

Communion Assistants – Kent and Angela Weaver, Julie Honsey, Mindy Scholten

Acolytes – 8:15 Adam Dostalík; 10:45 Sage Speck, Christina Anderson

Altar Guild – Becky Selander, Mary McCann, Marilyn Allie

Counters – 8:15 Mike Carney and Darlene Stuckle 10:45 Tom McCleary and Chris Lawson

Coffee Servers – Rich and Michelle Voelker

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Web: [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)