

Peace Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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If you'd like to connect with Pastor Stern, please don't hesitate to give him a call/text/email at your convenience; he's happy to meet with you. Thanks!

Organic Word † Hybrid Worship † Local Work

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2017

In the name of Jesus, who bids our hearts be still, welcome to Peace Lutheran! Today, we ponder the joy of grace-sufficient, “love-undeserved enough,” as we focus on the One who bids us be calm in and against the worries of this life.



Whether this is your first time with us or Peace is your church home, welcome to worship! If you have questions or needs, feel free to ask us; we'll do our best to help where we can. If time allows, we'd love to get to know you over coffee & snacks after the service; but we understand if that doesn't fit your schedule. Above all, know we appreciate you being here & we'd love to serve your spiritual needs!

As we worship the God of Order in a fitting & orderly way, we'll use the path of worship printed in this booklet. Today, we worship the Son of God who promises to be *“with you/us always, to the very end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20), as we consider the worship-theme:

Grace : No Worries!

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The Greeting, Invocation

Jesus promises that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with his presence to bless & be with them (Mt. 18:20); for that reason our worship calls on the name & magnifies the praise of the One, True God.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

The word is near you;

It is in your mouth and in your heart (Romans 10:8).

It is with your heart that you believe and are justified,

And it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved (*Romans 10:10*).

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (*Romans 10:13*).

Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame (*Romans 10:11*).

Our Confession of Sins

God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship services reminds us of our sinful condition, realizes that we've all fallen short of God's demands, & focuses us on our need for a Savior.

If we claim to have fellowship with God yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (*1 John 1:5-8*). Aware of our sins we ask for his forgiveness:

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

A moment of silence to ask forgiveness of our own, personal sins.

Our Lord's Absolution

For the sake of his Son, Jesus, the Lord has forgiven all of our sins. It's the pastor's joy to proclaim & assure you that you have been set free ("absolved" or "acquitted") from all of your sins & from all of your guilt!

Lord God, you are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

Fill us with the peace of your forgiveness so that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

A Prayer in the Joy of God's Forgiveness

This quick & concise petition asks the Lord for discerning hearts in connection to all the blessings he's given us. Guided by his grace & aware of his gifts to us, we simply pray he enables us to use them to his glory.

Holy Spirit, you have refreshed us with the news of your forgiveness – our sins are atoned for, our guilt is removed! In your grace and mercy, come to us with your comforting Word, which alone can drive away our doubts. Direct us to our Savior, Jesus, so that we may trust in him with our whole heart.

Hear us, Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

A Reading from Joshua 1:5b-9, 14-15 (this translation is the NIV84)

As Joshua stands to take over the leadership-reins from Moses, the pastor reminds him of the anxiety-calming, soul-stilling, worry-removing grace that is his to know: God was with him (us) & would never leave him (us). Promise.

As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; **I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. ⁷“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**”

¹⁴Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, fully armed, must cross over ahead of your brothers. You are to help your brothers ¹⁵until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them.

This is God's Word.

A Prayer Response to God's Word

In a special way, Luther's Morning Prayer reflects on the promised-grace of our Savior God. With this prayer we ponder God's protective grace lovingly held over us in every aspect of our lives, callings, & occupations.

I thank you my, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

A Reading from II Corinthians 12:7-10 (this translation is the NIV84)

Sometimes worry in our lives isn't merely occupational; often times, it's situational. . . an event in which God's grace seems hidden. But, through clouds of worry, speaks the Voice of Promise with news of grace sufficient.

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

This is God's Word.

Statement of Faith : The First Article & an Explanation

The 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed rejoices in the loving truth of God the Father. In joyful confidence we take to heart who God the Father is & all that he has so graciously done (& still does) for all people.

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.

All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

A Gospel Reading & Sermon from Matthew 28:16-20 (this translation is the NIV84)

In love upon love, the Risen Savior meets his disciples on the mountain promised. Even as they worship him, some doubt; but, in grace upon grace, Jesus reminds them & us of his power, promise, & presence.

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ **When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.** ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

This is the Gospel of our Lord!

Alleluia and Amen!

NO WORRIES “WITH US!”

The Offering

Concerning the offering, the Lord says, “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); if you’re blessed to support Peace with an offering – tangibly here or electronically at peacelutheranboulder.org – thank you! As we carry on our Lord’s work, whether the gospel moves your heart to offer a prayer, a gift, or an encouragement, please do know we appreciate you for it!

Hearts may consider the blessing of giving thanks for grace sufficient by designating a gift to hurricane Harvey relief. If that’s your desire, please refrain from designating a gift through our ministry here at Peace. Instead, please consider supporting Christian Aid & Relief ministry which has been established for just such a purpose; 92¢ of every \$1.00 donated directly goes to active relief efforts. Opportunities to directly support affected areas can be found on the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod’s website (wels.net) & by following the prompts under “Resource Center → Christian Aid & Relief”. Thank you!

Prayer of the Church & Lord’s Prayer

This lovely prayer follows the articles of the Apostles’ Creed (1st – concerning God the Father; 2nd – concerning God the Son; 3rd – concerning God the Holy Spirit) to approach the Father’s throne with all our needs.

Heavenly Father, Creator of all things, you give us all that we need for body and life.

Every good and perfect gift comes from you, the Father of the heavenly lights (*James 1:17*).

Lord Jesus Christ, by your suffering and death you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

We approach your throne, O God, with confidence for mercy and grace in our time of need (*Hebrews 4:16*).

A moment to offer today's prayer requests & our own, private prayers

Holy Spirit, Counselor and Guide, you have raised us from death by your powerful Word.

You, O Spirit of God, have made us. Your breath, almighty One, gave us life (*Job 33:4*).

Lord, fill our hearts with thanksgiving for your mercy and love. Move us with our hearts to believe and with our mouths to confess your saving name (*Romans 10:10*).

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing & Benediction

Where the Lord's name is, there his blessing also is. Again aware of his goodness, his gifts, & his grace to us, our service concludes with God's promise to be with us, to bless us, to keep us, & to give us peace (Numbers 6).

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (*Matthew 28:20*).

Amen!

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

Amen!