

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Service of Holy Communion
September 13, 2026
9:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, PA

**-the congregation is invited to stand*

WELCOME TO GRACE

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us this summer. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which are found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Goodness of God

Johnson/Johnson/Ingram/Cash/Fielding
Abundant Grace

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Jesus Loves Me

ELW#595

***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**

Let us pray. 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.

The assembly may be seated.

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

WORD

FIRST READING – Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ 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?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ '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. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM – Psalm 103:8-13

⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹ **you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you,
O LORD.**

SECOND READING – Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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.

⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give

thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands as able.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be

tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands as able.

***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.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each prayer concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace with one another.

OFFERING

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Ten Thousand Reasons Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman
Abundant Grace

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

***THANKSGIVING AT TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

*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 as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

***THE 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**

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

Those communing at home or in their seats are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.

The Lutheran Church welcomes all to the Lord's Supper. If you are not a Christian and wish to inquire about the Christian faith, we invite you to speak to the minister.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Come As You Are

Crowder/Maher/Glover

Abundant Grace

The assembly stands as able.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of the Risen Lord strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

***BLESSING**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

This Little Light of Mine

ELW#677

***DISMISSAL**

Serving, Loving, Growing in Faith.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Blessed Be Your Name

Matt & Beth Redman

Abundant Grace

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister.....Donna Enrico
Lector.....Patty Rohde
Communion Assistants Tracey Alfano-Douty, Keith Snavely
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman
Organist Emily Hartman
Technology OperatorChris Jury
Abundant Grace.....Bonnie Barton, Kelly Smith,
..... Justin Manlove, Dave Lebo, Julie Flook
Sound (if inside) Bryan Weber
Acolyte (if inside) Alexis Weber

This Week at Grace: September 12-18

We make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith.



Connect with Us



EVENTS

The Sanctuary Lamp for September is given by Dr. G. Robert Little in memory of Collette Little and Bob Little.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The Bulletins & Mailings are given to the Glory of God.

We hold in prayer especially this week....

Deb Overly, Eileen Moore Hartzell, Karen Brown-Pautz, David & Lori Archer Family, Adam Handwerk, Alice Richards, Carolyn Houck, The Massot Family, Tom Zimmerman, Bob Hillegas, Jeff Johnson, Dr. Robert Little, Jaclyn Atkins, Robert Schweitzer, Alice M., and the friends & family of Dean Jury

We hold in prayer the recently departed....

Richard Slabonik and Dean Jury.

Rally Day w/Outdoor Worship

We will be kicking off the new school year with Rally Day this **Sunday, September 13**. Worship will be outdoors in the parking lot followed by lunch and activities. Grace will provide hoagies from Jersey Mike's; however, we are asking those attending to bring desserts and sides. *Even if you didn't sign up feel free to attend.* **Please try your best to attend as we would like to get a group photograph for the members after worship.** Come and learn about all the exciting activities, educational opportunities for every age, spiritual formation, youth events and more for the upcoming year. *In case of inclement weather both events will move indoors, and the services will be available via Live Stream.*

Calendar

9/12/26	5:00pm	Sabbath Service of Holy Communion in Barkley Chapel
9/13/26	9:30am	Outdoor Worship in Parking Lot <i>Rally Day w/Lunch after worship and All Church Photograph</i>
9/14/26	7:00pm	Scouting America Troop 54 & Cub Scout Pack 54 Meeting
9/15/26	9:00am 1:00pm	Quilting Ministry in Quilt Room Adult Bible Study in Neal Gathering Place
9/16/26	3:00pm	Grace Giving Pantry
9/17/26	6:00pm 7:00pm	Bells of Grace Rehearsal in the Balcony Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

Adult Bible Study

We're excited to kick off a brand new year of Adult Bible Study, and we'd love for you to join us, Tuesday, September 15 at 1 PM in the Neal Gathering Place where we'll come together in faith and fellowship. This isn't just a meeting—it's a warm and inviting journey of growth, discovery, and renewal. Let's open our hearts to God's Word, connect with one another, and embrace the amazing changes that come when we walk this faith journey side by side. We're looking forward to starting this new chapter with enthusiasm, hope, and a sincere desire to grow closer to Him. We will be studying the Book of Romans.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is upon us! Grace will be celebrating and participating in this national day of service on September 20th, 2026. We will be serving at the MidWest Food Bank again this year from Noon to 3pm. If you are interested in helping out one of the most important food banks in our area, please sign up

at: <https://volunteer.midwestfoodbank.org/opportunities/VG0QXHxWiq> on the [Events page](#) on the website or scan the QR code. I am looking forward to serving those who serve with you! -Pastor Chad



Upcoming Events (See the [Events page](#) on the website for more details)

9/20	God's Work. Our Hands Coffee Hour
9/21	Group Spiritual Formation
9/22	Adult Bible Study
9/25 – 27	Alive
9/26 – 27	Blessing of the Quilts

Backpack Challenge

If you took a backpack for the Backpack Challenge please return them to the conference room by **Sunday, September 27**

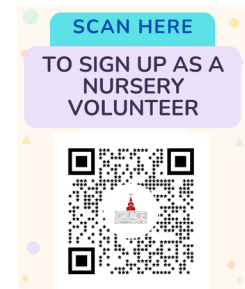
Calling All Confirmands!

Reminder that all children from 7th to 9th grade who have not been confirmed yet should be enrolling in confirmation classes for this year, starting on September 20th. It is a 2-year program where we learn about Lutheran Theology and major biblical stories and themes. Please reach out to Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org to enroll your child in confirmation class!

Nursery Helper Sign Up

We're looking to reboot the Sunday Morning Nursery. To do this we need helpers to stay in the Nursery during the entire Sunday Morning Worship Service. Drop-off time would be 5 minutes before worship starts, and pick-up will be right after the service ends. To volunteer, you need to be at least 16 years old. The maximum time commitment is once a month, as we need to form at least 4 teams (each with 2 adults or teens 16 or older) to get the Nursery up and running again.

We're planning to start offering Nursery on Sunday, October 4th. If you're interested, please sign up by **Sunday, September 27th**. You can sign up in the Neal Gathering Place or scan the QR code. Thanks so much for helping us make this happen!



Communion Cards and QR Codes

Communion Cards are in the pews in the main Sanctuary and on the table in the front and back of Barkley Chapel next to the communion cups. We ask that you complete one and drop it in the offering at least once a year. You can also complete the Communion Card on the website (www.gracecamphill.org) under the Worship tab. Over the next couple of weeks, you'll start to see QR codes in the pews—just scan them to log Communion, donate to Grace, see what's going on, and more.

Grace's Merchandise Store

Looking for some awesome Grace gear? We've got a bunch of cool stuff like hats, polo shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, a windbreaker jacket, and water bottles. Plus, a part of every sale helps support Grace. Check it out here: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/grace-lutheran-camp-hill-merch/>.



GRACE MERCHANDISE

Special Benevolence Offering

The Special Benevolence for **SEPTEMBER** is **NEW HOPE MINISTRY**. To contribute, please list your dollar amount next to *Special Offering Ministry* on the contribution envelopes or use the online giving page, use the QR code or on the website page at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/give>



Give Now

Lost & Found Items

Have you lost an item recently? If so, please check with the office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org. Items will be kept in the office for (1) month. After that time, they will be placed in the Community Aid bin in the second parking lot.

Welcome to Our Church Cards

If you are visiting Grace at one of our worship services, please take a moment to complete one of the "Welcome to Our Church" cards found in the pews, both narthexes and in the Neal Gathering Place. We'd love to hear from you.

Good News from Grace articles are due by **12noon on the 15th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. **This Week at Grace** information is due by **12noon on Tuesdays**. Please email any information to ddeppen@gracecamphill.org.

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text aligned with the notes.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text aligned with the notes.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The third system is the beginning of the refrain. It features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with two lines of text aligned with the notes.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The fourth system continues the refrain. It features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with two lines of text aligned with the notes.

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith

Grace Church Staff

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To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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