

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
July 6, 2014

GOD AND COUNTRY SUNDAY

PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, You invite all who are weary and burdened by their sin to come to You and find rest for their souls. I come to You this day grateful for the forgiveness of my sins and the hope of everlasting life that You have prepared for and freely given to me and to all who look to You in faith. Keep me steadfast in my faith that receives these great blessings. I pray this in Your holy name. Amen

WELCOME

Welcome to everyone gathered here this morning on this holiday weekend to hear God's Word and be strengthened in your faith. **We especially welcome our guests and visitors.** If you have any questions about Grace Congregation please feel free to contact our Pastor. Children are welcome in our Service and they will be invited to come forward for the Children's Message. If needed, a nursery for infants and toddlers is located downstairs. Restrooms are also located downstairs or across the bridge on this floor level before entering the fellowship hall. If you need assistance please speak with a Greeter or an Usher. Please come and worship with us again.

AS WE GATHER

"Independence Day" in the United States of America celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain. It is the "birthday" of the United States as a sovereign nation. Christians live in two kingdoms simultaneously. We are subjects of an earthly government and at the same time we are members of the heavenly kingdom. While we are free and independent, we are dependent upon our national leaders to provide protection and our neighbors to show us respect. We are at the same time dependent upon the gracious forgiveness of our heavenly Father and recognize our need to trust in Him above all things while at the same time loving and respecting our neighbor. As such we keep the commandments of the Lord, loving Him with our whole heart, mind, strength and soul and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. We give thanks to the Lord for the blessings of soul and body that He gives to us as members of both kingdoms.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and the beautification of His House by Richard and Beverly Sanders in memory of Beverly's father, the Rev. Arnold Wagner, and in thanksgiving for blessings received.

THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor:		Rev. James C. Walter
Vicar:		David Witte
Director of Parish Music:		Nathan Beethe
Secretary:		Pat Funk
Early Childhood Center Director:		Colleen Moorman
Acolyte:	(8:15)	Lily Woodyard
Cantor:	(8:15)	Joel Junkans
Ushers:	(8:15)	Tommy Borchert, Sam Cate Dennis Fastenau, Paul Nichols
Greeter:	(8:15)	Ed and Susan Mahnken
Altar Guild:	(8:15)	Pat Funk
Acolyte:	(10:45)	Lauren Faulkner
Cantor:	(10:45)	Ron Krueger
Ushers:	(10:45)	David Faulkner, Cole Hill Wes Mainard, Chris Pils
Greeters:	(10:45)	Kurt, Rose and Evelyn Shrader
Altar Guild:	(10:45)	Lou Alice May
Coffee Hosts:		
Altar Guild: (Wed. evening)		Suzanne Raddle and Wilma Richter
Nursery Attendant:		Christina and Emily Junkans

THE APPOINTED READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, July 13th, The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, are: The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13, The Epistle Reading: Romans 8:12-17, and The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Grace Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 250769, Little Rock, AR 72225

www.gracelutheranlr.org
Telephone Number: 501-663-3631

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SUNDAY

Pre-Service Music

Lighting of the Chancel Candles

Prelude *Partita on O God, Our Help in Ages Past – Paul Manz*

Ringling of the Church Bell

Opening Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past LSB 733

Please stand

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

Exhortation

- A** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- A** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- A** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,

and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen

Prayer for Forgiveness

- A** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen

Psalm

Psalm 145:1–14 (antiphon: v. 19)

- A** He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
C he also hears their cry and saves them.
- A** I will extol you, my God and King,
C and bless your name forever and ever.
- A** Every day I will bless you
C and praise your name forever and ever.
- A** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
C and his greatness is unsearchable.
- A** One generation shall commend your works to another,
C and shall declare your mighty acts.
- A** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
C and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

A They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
C **and I will declare your greatness.**

A They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
C **and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

A The LORD is gracious and merciful,
C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

A The LORD is good to all,
C **and his mercy is over all that he has made.**

A All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
C **and all your saints shall bless you!**

A They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
C **and tell of your power,**

A to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
C **and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

A Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
C **and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

A The LORD is faithful in all his words
C **and kind in all his works.**

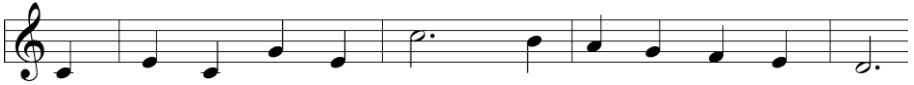
A The LORD upholds all who are falling
C **and raises up all who are bowed down.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

A He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
C **he also hears their cry and saves them.**

Hymn: Before You, Lord, We Bow

LSB 966



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor - ship Him a - lone. Cast down



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.

- 5 And when in pow'r He comes,
Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,
With joy to sing
To heav'n's high King
Salvation's song!

Text and Music: Public domain

Service of the Word

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.

C also with you.

A Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Pledge to the American Flag

C I pledge allegiance to the flag,
Of the United States of America;
And to the Republic for which it stands,
One nation, under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.

Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign

LSB 832



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text and Music: Public domain

Pledge to the Christian Flag

C I pledge allegiance to the cross
Of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And to the faith for which it stands,
One Savior, King eternal,
With mercy and grace for all.

Please sit

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
 2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
 3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Our peo - ple shield in



rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
 runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
 fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
 dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 ev - er, Lord, Thy peo - ple go, Pro - tect them by Thy
 all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall



cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 guard - ing hand From ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
 watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
 rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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Epistle

Romans 7:14–25a

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members

another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise

Alleluia and Verse

Matt 11:28



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A Come to me, all who labor and are heavy | laden,*
and I will | give you rest.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

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

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen

Please sit

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn: Come unto Me, Ye Weary

LSB 684

Sermon

Matthew 11:25–30

“Tired?”

Please rise

Prayer of the Church

A Mindful of God’s many blessings to us in this land and thankful for the gift of salvation, let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition ends with the following:

- A** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with the following:

- A** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

Hymn: God Bless Our Native Land

LSB 965



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem-pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard-ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch-ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Text and Music: Public domain

Please sit

Offering

Partita on O God, Our Help in Ages Past – Paul Manz

Please rise



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we Thy boun-ties thus As stew-ards true re-ceive



All that we have is Thine a-lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 And glad-ly, as Thou bless-est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

6 And we believe Thy Word,
 Though dim our faith may be:
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
 We do it unto Thee.

Text and Music: Public domain

Service Concludes

Lord's Prayer

A Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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

Collect

A Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen

Benediction

A The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make His face shine on us
and be gracious to us.
The Lord lift His countenance upon us and ✠ give us peace.

C Amen

Closing Hymn: America the Beautiful

Printed on the next page

Postlude

Partita on O God, Our Help in Ages Past – Paul Manz



Acknowledgments

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Closing Hymn: America the Beautiful



1 O beau-ti-ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau-ti-ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas-sioned stress
 3 O beau-ti-ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4 O beau-ti-ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



For pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain!
 A thor-ough-fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!
 Whomore than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,



And crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!
 Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!
 Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine!
 And crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!

Text: Public domain

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

- SUNDAY:** 8:15 a.m. – Divine Service
Coffee and Fellowship in the Parlor
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School downstairs in Parker Hall
9:45 a.m. – Junior and Senior High downstairs in church
9:45 a.m. – Pastor Walter’s Class upstairs in Parker Hall
10:45 a.m. – Divine Service
- MON - FRI:** 7:30 a.m. – Early Childhood Development Center
- TUESDAY:** 9:30 a.m. – Tuesday Morning Bible Class
12:00 noon – Sit and Sew
- WEDNESDAY:** 6:30 a.m. – Men’s Bible Class at St. Vincent’s
7:00 p.m. – Mid-Week Service

TODAY SUNDAY SCHOOL - This week, Sunday School explores “Cleansing H₂O! Naaman Healed.” The lesson focuses on how God pours out His healing love for us by cleansing us through water and the Word, giving us life and salvation. “*Whom does God use to heal His people today?*” could be discussed by families.

PASTOR WALTER’S CLASS meets each Sunday morning upstairs in Parker Hall. Pastor Walter is leading a study on Hebrews, and today Vicar Witte will continue with the section on chapter five of Hebrews.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for children ages 3 years through 6th grade meet in the lower level of the Family Life Center. **JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES** meet in classrooms downstairs in the church.

OUR THANKS to Vicar David Witte for leading us in worship this morning in Pastor Walter’s absence. Following the 8:15 Service, Vicar Witte will lead Pastor’s Bible class in the Fellowship Hall.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Joan Ann Olsen receives successful treatment and good tests results.

Rudy Bischof receives successful treatment and good test results.

The Worden family continues recovery after a tornado severely damaged their home.

Grant Geuther continues to recover at home.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of Mrs. Ann Benson who passed away Thursday morning, July 3rd, in hospice care. Funeral arrangements are pending. Ann is the mother of Brenda Parscale. Please remember Brenda and her family in your prayers.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO:

July 8 – Lisa and Steve Gertsch

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO:

July 7 – Monta Krasts, Anna Kate Manchester, Jack Manchester,
Monica Ray

July 9 – Kristin St. Clair

July 10 – David Holzhauer, Jon Lindemann, Jennifer Wunderlich

July 12 – Linda Bradshaw, Jan Grant, Sandy Lindemann.
Stella Grace Sutterfield

LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP – Attendance: Sunday 6/29: 198 (8:15 – 91 and 10:45 – 107). Mid-Week Service 7/2: 10. **Offerings:** Sunday 6/29: \$7,982.25. Mid-Week Service 6/25: \$140.75. Missions: \$25.00. Memorials: \$320.00. Building Fund: \$200.00.

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion books for July through September are on the table by the front door to the sanctuary. Please pick up your copy today and recycle your old copy by putting it in the box on the bridge.

GRACE MASTER PLAN - We will have a special presentation next Sunday, July 13th, during Pastor's Sunday school class to discuss the Master Plan for our property. We are asking that everyone come and see the preliminary plans and get your questions answered. We are looking to bring these plans to the Voters sometime this fall. Please come and make your comments heard on this important issue.

GRACE MASTER PLAN - We will have another opportunity on **Tuesday, July 15th, at 6:00 p.m.** to attend the presentation to discuss the Master Plan for our property. We are asking that everyone come and see the preliminary plans and get your questions answered. We are looking to bring these plans to the Voters sometime this fall. Please come and make your comments heard on this important issue. For the July 15th meeting a signup sheet is on the table by the easel on the bridge or you can call the church office to let us know you are coming. Please sign up to let us know you are coming as we will NOT hold the meeting if we don't have people sign up.

SIT AND SEW will meet Tuesday, July 8th, at 12:00 noon in the classroom downstairs in the church. Bring your sewing project and join in a good time of fellowship.

DEVOTIONS WITH PASTOR will not meet until Thursday, July 17th, at 12:00 noon in Parker Hall. Please note the change of date.

CONGRATULATIONS - While at cheer camp, Ashley Worden was selected to be an All American cheerleader. She will be among a group of senior cheerleaders, selected nationwide, to represent the USA in a New Year's Day parade in London, England. Congratulations, Ashley!!!

REV. MARK AND SANDI EISOLD, Serving the Lord in Peru - It's time for Rev. Eisold's Home Service 2014 from Peru to the United States and he will be arriving in the United States July 9th. Their presentation schedule includes the following two visits in Arkansas: **Our Savior Lutheran Church**, Cabot, Arkansas, on Thursday, **July 10th**, at 5:00 p.m. and **Bella Vista Lutheran Church**, Bella Vista, Arkansas on Sunday, **July 13th**. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about the Lord's mission in Peru. For more information, contact the hosting congregations.

CROSS DEFENSE - on your Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO. When a skeptic questions us about our faith, or when we ourselves have questions about what we believe, how do we answer them? Learn how to address modern-day issues and tough arguments levied against faith, *and* how to engage these conversations with intelligence and grace. Join us and discover how to share your faith clearly and lovingly. Mondays @ 2:00-3:00pm CDT on kfu.org or at [Facebook.com/KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio).

MEMORIALS -

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ROSEMARY SORSBY

TO THE GRACE GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

By Kaye Gilbert

Christy Murphy

Robert and Carole Nichols

TO THE GRACE BUILDING FUND

By Joe and Debbie Craig

Robert and Sheila Wilimzig

IN MEMORY OF MR. THOMAS HOLTER – Great-nephew of

TO THE GRACE BUILDING FUND

Marietta Gutierrez

By Rudy Bischof