



August 24, 2025 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

Jesus' words in our Gospel reading may sound a bit scary. Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And Jesus' response: "Strive to enter through the narrow door." And Jesus proceeds to put the questioner into His response, saying that *he* will say to the Master, "Lord, open to us," and the Master will say, "I do not know where you come from." With this response, Jesus changed the question. No longer is it, "Will those who are saved be few?" Now the question is, "Will *you* be saved?" The question may make us squirm, as it undoubtedly made the first hearers. And yet, Jesus asks us to consider these things so that He may direct us to the narrow door, namely, to Himself, so that we may truly be saved. After all, He says, "I am the door..." (John 10:9).

HYMN *LSB 609, "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive," stanzas 1-4*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION. *Luke 13:22-23; John 10:9*

Pastor: Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?"

People: **And Jesus answered, "[You] strive to enter through the narrow door."**

Pastor: As Jesus continues His answer, He asks His hearer to change the question.

People: **Jesus wants His hearers to ask the question, "Will I be saved?"**

Pastor: Often times, our thoughts, words, and actions make this question even scarier. We see in ourselves nothing but sin, which sharpens the question, "Lord, will I be saved?" But Jesus does not say these things because He wants to trouble us. Rather, He wants us to reflect on our sin and unworthiness so that we can be ready to hear His Word of promise. Therefore, let us take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God our Father.

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

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Brothers and sisters, through baptism, you have entered God's Kingdom through the narrow door of Jesus Christ, who was given to die for you. Through Him, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are saved through Christ!

People: **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 66:18–23* *(The glory of the Lord shall be declared.)*

¹⁸ "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD. ²² "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. ²³ From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Hebrews 12:4–24* *(An exhortation to faithful, peaceful living.)*

⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. ¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further

messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Luke 13:29*

People: **Alleluia. People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:22–30 (Jesus talks about who will be saved.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²² He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹ And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 526, "You Are the Way; through You Alone"*

SERMON *"Only the Fallen are Lifted"*

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: **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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace so that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ by faith so that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, so that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend *[names]* and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and so that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 192-193)*

All: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 740, "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of August 24, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 daniel.heitshusen@gmail.com Pastor's Day Off; Friday

Family for the Week: **Heidi Costello**
 Good Shepherd, Carthage - Rev. Silas Mehl

Prayers of Peace and Comfort: **Family of Deborah Knotts (our cleaning lady) on her passing.**
The family of Nancy Keegan, who went to be with the Lord.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Carol Bresnick – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)

Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)

Long Term

Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health & healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing from surgery)
Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health & healing cancer)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-in-law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday

August 24th

9:00 am - Happy Half Hour

9:30 am - Fellowship

		10:00 am – Service
Monday	August 25 th	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm
Thursday	August 28 th	Elders - 9:30 am Council - 11:00 am
Sunday	August 31 st	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service Pot Luck after church
Monday	September 1 st	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm

Birthdays: Alan Heisner-Aug. 26

Anniversaries: Ken & Darlene Lampe-Aug. 29

August

Greeters

24: Edith Chambers & Sue Doss

31: Bill & Joanne Michel

Ushers

24: Matt Miller

31: Doug Goodman



Free will offering TODAY: We are joining the Missouri District in collecting a free will offering for *Tomorrow's Teachers and Preachers*. Funds will be added to the Missouri District Church Worker Student Aid Endowment, which has been used for over 40 years to bless college and seminary students from Missouri who are preparing for church work vocations. Thank you for your support and care for generations to come.

LWML will meet on September 8, 2025, at 1:30 pm in Trinity Chapel. Our speaker will be Cindy Gulick from the Barry Lawrence County Library. Please join us for this very interesting program. There will be a short business meeting to follow.

Confirmation parent meeting: Parents of confirmation aged children, there will be a confirmation parent meeting on September 2, 2025, at 5:00 pm here at Grace Lutheran Church. Your children are welcome to join you for this meeting as we discuss the purpose of confirmation, expectations, curriculum, and set a time for confirmation class.

Synod Convention: The convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be held in Phoenix, AZ, from July 18-23, 2026. We need to nominate a lay person to be put into the running to be a lay delegate to the convention. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please see Pastor Heitshusen.

Circuit Forum: Related to the convention, on September 28, 2025, the Southwest Circuit will meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Carthage, MO, at 4:00 pm for a worship service and to vote on pastoral and lay delegates for the Synod convention. If you would like to join Pastor Heitshusen for this service and to vote, please let Pastor Heitshusen know as soon as possible. All are welcome to come.

Wednesday Bible Study: We are looking to start up our normal Wednesday Bible study. And yet, we are considering a different time for it. A couple of possibilities are 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm. Over the next week, please consider what time might work for an earlier meeting, and let Pastor Heitshusen or one of the elders know your thoughts.

A Note from Amee Boettcher – wife of previous Pastor Mark Boettcher at Grace (1985-2002): With thanksgiving, the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tilsit, Missouri, is planning to recognize Mark and would like to invite you to the event. A flyer is on the bulletin board with details.