



Third Sunday After Pentecost - June 29, 2025

As We Gather

When people are invited to follow Jesus, they sometimes reject Him or make excuses for not following Him. We will hear this in today's Gospel. As we follow Jesus, we must be aware that the road may not always be easy. Following Jesus means denying ourselves, picking up our cross daily, and going where Jesus leads. And while it may at times be difficult, we trust that Jesus is for us, and whatever trouble we face in this world, we know that Jesus has overcome the world and that Jesus will be with us to support and uphold us.

Welcome

Hymn: OSB 249 "We have Come Into His House"

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Jesus says, "Follow Me."

All: **We, like the people in today's Gospel lesson, at times are not ready to follow. We first want to do our own thing.**

Pastor: Jesus looks at a lost world in need of witnesses and says, "Follow Me."

All: **We look at this lost world in need of the Gospel, and we hesitate and shy away.**

Pastor: Jesus knows the temptations and the decisions we face, and He says, "Follow Me."

All: **We falter on the way, we follow the ways of this world, and we fail to keep God's law and make ourselves slaves to sin.**

Pastor: Let us silently confess our own sins to God.

(Moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Pastor: Lord God, You have called us to follow Your only-begotten Son, to learn from Him, to live and grow in Him, to tell others about Him, and to be faithful to Him.

All: **We sin against You and one another in thought, word, and deed. We become enslaved to those things around us and fail to live in the freedom You have won for us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us, and grant us the clear vision of following Christ through all the confusion of this world, and bring us by faith to the promise of everlasting life in Your presence. Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus says, "Follow Me," and we follow Him as forgiven people with grace to do His will. "For freedom Christ has set us free; . . . those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise: OSB 241 “To God Be The Glory”

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness, that we may love and serve You and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 19:9b–21 (*The Lord brings Elijah assurance that he is not alone in resisting the temptations of idolatry.*)

⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁰ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”¹¹ The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”¹⁴ He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”¹⁵ The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”¹⁹ So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.²⁰ Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?”²¹ So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading – Galatians 5:1 & 13-25 (*Paul reminds us of the freedom that is ours in Christ and the responsibilities that come with it.*)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual

immorality, impurity and debauchery;²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:51-62 (*Jesus is rejected in one city and then talks about the cost and priority of following Him.*)

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

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

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.
⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;
⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them.⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village.⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of Faith and Trust: OSB 41 "Do Lord!: Psalm 27"

Sermon: Luke 9:51-62 "Excuses, Excuses"

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' 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.

Offerings

Hymn: OSB 198 "Sweet Hour Of Prayer"

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, many in this world have rejected Your Son and His grace. Soften their hearts, Lord, that they hear Your Word and receive You with joy and gladness. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, many people in this world are persecuted for their faith in You. Support and encourage them amid the trials they are facing and keep them strong in their faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, walk with all those who are grieving. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, raise up faithful leaders who are committed to liberty and justice. Oppose all those who would use others for their own ambition and pride. Help the leaders of our nation put aside their partisan differences and work together to address challenges presented by immigration. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, give hope to all those who are struggling and depressed. Bring them into the presence of the loving community of Your Church that they find help, hope, and freedom among Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

(Any special petitions will be included here.)

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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

Pastor: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ; the love of God, the Father; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with you all.

People: Amen.

Hymn: OSB 227 "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Church
News

ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of June 29, 2025

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

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597

pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Gladys Bauer & Homebound Families
First Lutheran, Neosho - Rev. Steve Gilmore

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Shari Barnard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing from pneumonia and blood clots)

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)
Roger Harris – (Wendy's Dad – health and healing from flu)
Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Deborah Knotts – (our cleaning lady – health and healing)
Wendy Koenig – (friend of Heidi Costello – health and healing)


Pastor Clif Loman – (former Pastor at Grace – health and healing)
Alissa Loveland – (Bob & Rachel Sanford's daughter)
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)
Thomas Williams – (Ruth Stoddard's friend)

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)
Jan Fisher – (daughter of Bill & Joanne Michel – health and 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)
Ron Hicks – (friend of Glenda Enlow – health and healing)
Steve Hilton – (friend of Harold Lampe –health & healing, cancer)
Marty Jones – (Bobby Jones' mother – health)
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)
Kooper Tutten – (Jeeper Meyer's Great-grandson healing)
Barbara Jean Wilson – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	June 29th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service – Pastor Ken Pot Luck Lunch after service
Monday	June 30th	NO Braille
Wednesday	July 2nd	Pastor in Office
Thursday	July 3rd	Pastor in Office
Friday	July 4th	4th of July Holiday 
Sunday	July 6th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	July 7th	NO Braille LWML – 1:30 pm at Freistatt

Birthdays: Bernie Thomas & James Sharp-July 2; Nate Lile-July 3
Anniversaries: Harold & Gwen Lampe-July 2

June

Greeters

29: Stan & Sharon Crandall

Ushers

29: Rob Springer

July

Greeters

**06: Emily Ernest & Edith Chambers
13: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer
20: Charlie & Edith Chambers
27: Bill and Joanne Michel**

Ushers

**06: Charlie Chambers
13: Rob Springer
20: Bill Michel
27: David Lampe**



Pastor Daniel Heitshusen's ordination and installation at Grace will be July 26 at 3:00 pm. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend! More details to follow – stay tuned!

LWML will meet July 7, 2025, at 1:30 in Trinity Chapel. The program will be presented by Connie Prater, titled "What Are You Putting On?" based on Colossians 3:12. The business meeting will follow the program. Please join us.



Trinity Lambs Cottage will be opening a daycare for kiddos ages 6 weeks to 5 years in July. Information is available on our website:

trinity1874.com/daycare<<http://trinity1874.com/daycare>>. Spots are already filling up

and we are in need of Part-Time Caregivers. We have a fabulous director, Sonya Johnson, who will be excited to train and coach anyone with a heart for our mission to raise up the kiddos in our community. Trinity Lambs Cottage is also on Facebook and Instagram. More information is available on the church bulletin board.

The Presbyterian Church has asked for our help at "Come And Dine" on July 31st and August 14th. A sign-up sheet will be available for those willing to help.

Special Voters' Meeting will be held on July 13th after church services. We will discuss Pastor Heitshusen's housing allowance required for tax purposes.

Jo Hadley Update - Current Mailing Address:

Jo Hadley
193 Heritage Lane, Apt. 216-L
Dixon, CA. 95620