

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2015



"Leave your country . . . and go to the land I will show you."

-Genesis 12:1 (NIV)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, AZ



Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-Tucson! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises and as you offer him your thanks and praise.

Worship Notes

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

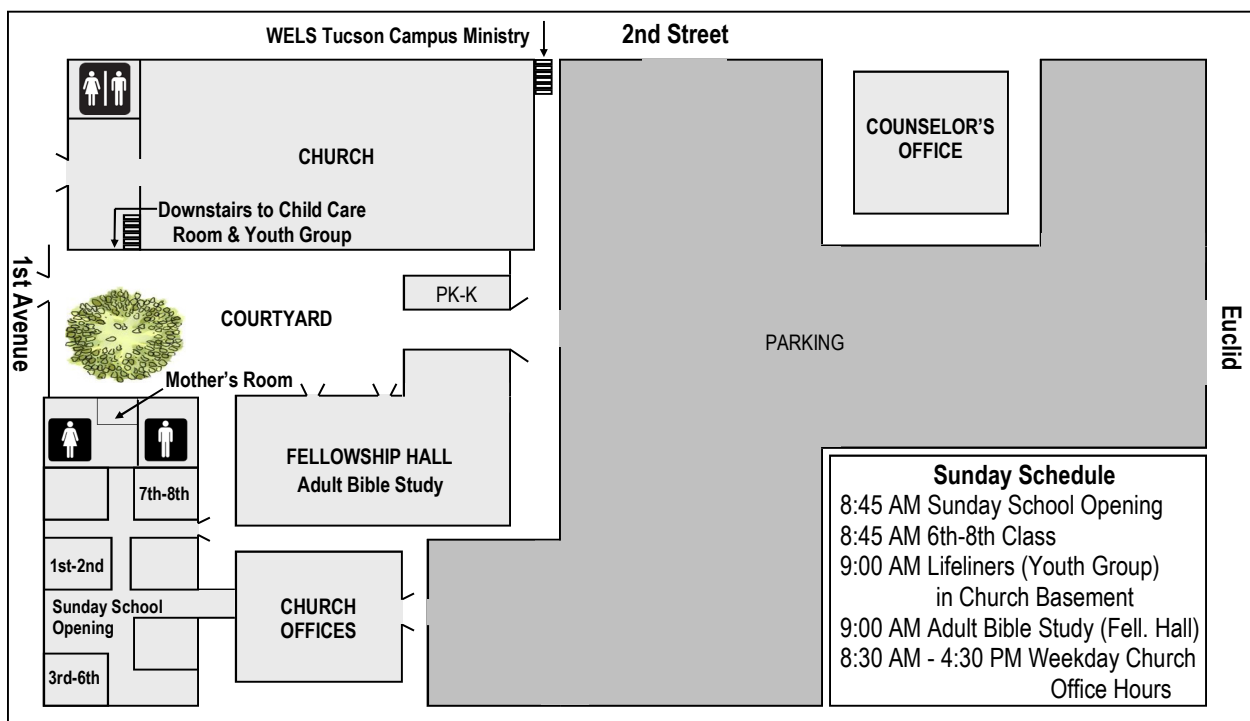
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will still be able to hear the service
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryway. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org



SERVICE OF THE WORD

Christian Worship

WELCOME

HYMN

Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink

Christian Worship #405

Please stand

Minister: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -



tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—

Amazing Grace

Arr. by Jim

Brickman

10:00 AM—

Lord, I Love Thee

With All My Heart

The words of this song of praise are based on Psalm 34:8 and Psalm 119:89. It marks our thankfulness to have heard God's forgiveness of our sins and anticipates our listening to God's Word throughout our worship service.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.



Please be seated

THE WORD

The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.

FIRST LESSON

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had

Genesis 12:1-8 (NIV)

acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

This hymn is based on the Psalm of the Day—Psalm 19.

VOICES OF GRACE

The Stars Declare His Glory

CW #246

*The stars declare his glory; the vault of heaven springs—
Mute witness of the Master’s hand in all created things—
And through the silences of space their soundless music sings.*

*The dawn returns in splendor, the heavens burn and blaze,
The rising sun renews the race that measures all our days
And writes in fire across the skies God’s majesty and praise.*

*So shine the Holy Scriptures to make the simple wise,
More sweet than honey to the taste, more rich than any prize,
His Word of love within our hearts, His light before our eyes.*

*So order, too this life of mine; direct it all my days.
The meditations of my heart be innocence and praise,
My rock and my redeeming Lord, in all my words and ways.*

SECOND LESSON

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my

Philippians 3:4b-11 (NIV)

Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

VERSE OF THE DAY *(sung by Voices of Grace)*

Philippians 4:4 RSV

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.

Please stand

GOSPEL

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him,

Luke 14:25-33 (NIV)

saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”

The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ our King.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise — be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace I'm Saved
Christian Worship #384

SERMON

Genesis 12:1-8
Father Abraham, Our Model of Faith

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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 be seated

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

The Apostles' Creed developed in the Early Christian Church as a personal confession of faith. It is so named because it confesses the faith taught by the Apostles of Jesus.



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Faith of Our Fathers
Arr. by
Cindy Berry

10:00 AM—
Father, God of
Grace, You Knew Us
CWS #753

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: **Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: **Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: **Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: **Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with confidence that you will hear and with faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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.**

Please be seated

HYMN

Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You
Christian Worship #380

Please stand

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27

POSTLUDE:

7:45 AM—
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
CW #382

Please be seated

10:00 AM—
St. Anthony Chorale
By Johannes Brahms

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Not unto Us
Christian Worship #392

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

- Preacher** Pastor Sam Clemons
- Worship Leader** Pastor Nathan Kassulke (10:00 AM)
- Accompanists** Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)
- Ushers**..... Vic Thornton, Vernon Neal (7:45 AM)
Dave Breitreitz, Ed Ethington, Dylan Guenther (10:00 AM)
Lucas Guenther, Ferdie Kramm, Josiah Weinstein (10:00 AM)
- Sound & Recording Tech** Darin Colton (10:00 AM)

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Women of Grace Brunch Meeting

There will be a Women of Grace brunch meeting this Saturday, September 19 at 10 AM in the Grace -Tucson Fellowship Hall.

Please bring "brunch" food to pass (cold cuts, salads, finger sandwiches, egg dishes, relish trays, bars & cookies, etc.)

Join us for food, fellowship and "future." It's time once again to move forward to a blessed new season at Grace! Questions? Call or text Diane Kramm at 440-8564.

Fiesta Sahuarita

Grace is participating in this year's Fiesta Sahuarita, an annual event just down the road from Grace -Sahuarita at Anamax Park. This is a great opportunity for us to greet the community and introduce them to our church! The Fiesta is Saturday, September 26, noon until 9 PM. The event includes live music, food trucks, games, arts and crafts, and a waterslide. Grace will have a booth at the festival and will be looking for **volunteers from all the Grace locations to help staff the booth for an hour or two at a time**. Because Boz Lomasney will be at the booth most of the day, volunteers will be needed to give him additional help. There will be lots to see and do at the Fiesta, so anyone wanting to come staff the booth for a bit can then enjoy the rest of the activities as well! If you'd like to help please contact Diane Kramm at pdkramm@earthlink.com or call/text her at 440-8564.

Member Information Sheets Needed!

We are still in need of information sheets from a large portion of the congregation. These forms allow you to share contact information as well as information about your family, your gifts and talents, and ways that you would be interested in serving at church. **Please drop them off in the gray box (in the Courtyard) or mail them to the church office. You can also fill out an online version of the forms at www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org/profile.** Thank you for your help!

LWMS Grand Canyon East Circuit Fall Rally: October 10

Saturday, October 10 at 9:00 AM, Holy Cross (241 N. Harrison Rd, Tucson, 85748) is hosting the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Grand Canyon Circuit East's Fall Rally. All women of Grace are *encouraged* to attend. **Registration is \$10** and includes lunch. Registration forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall and at all the Grace locations. **The rally registration and Mission Money donation deadline is due Monday, September 28 and needs to be mailed to Rose Pedersen (1154 Turkey Knob, Las Cruces, NM, 88012).** The afternoon speaker will be Pastor Nathan Kassulke of Grace-Tucson and Pastor James and Letty Connell of Cross of Christ in Las Cruces, NM. Their focus will be on outreach, emphasizing college-age. PLEASE, take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our WELS Mission work and learn more about how WELS women support and encourages that work through the LWMS (Lutheran Womens' Missionary Society). Questions? Contact Diane Kramm (440-8564) or visit www.grandcanyonlwms.org.

NO Wednesday Sahuarita Bible Study or Thursday Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday morning Bible Study at Grace-Sahuarita and the Thursday morning Women's Bible Study at Grace-Tucson are cancelled this week while Pastor Koehler is in Wisconsin at the Board for Home Missions Meetings.

TODAY

Welcome Grace Guests!

If you are a guest at Grace today, we are very happy to have you worship with us! If you would like more information about Grace or have questions about becoming a member of our congregation, please visit the Welcome Table in the courtyard. If this is your first time at Grace, please stop there to pick up a gift just for being our guest this morning.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship after 10:00 AM worship is hosted by the Tsose family. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Call Meeting Today

The next Call Meeting is this afternoon at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary at Grace-Tucson. We will be extending a Divine Call for a Pastor to serve at Grace-Sahuarita. All members are welcome to join us for this meeting and to offer appropriate input to the voters.

Welcome New Members

Paul & Cathy Anderson and Joe Groner will become members of Grace through Profession of Faith in 9:45 AM worship at Grace-Sahuarita this morning. We welcome them to Grace and ask God's blessings on them!

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Hosea 3:1-5
2 Corinthians 2:5-11
Luke 15:1-10

Sermon Text & Theme

Psalm 51
The Heart of the Forgiven

Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting for our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. A booklet with Pastor and Council reports can be found in the church entryways and in the Fellowship Hall. This keeps members up to date on Grace's ministry activities and helps voters prepare for the meeting.

HANDBELL CHOIR Beginning Tomorrow!

Handbell Choir will begin rehearsing tomorrow, September 14 at 4:30 PM in the church basement. Anyone interesting in giving bells a try is invited to come! If you have questions or would like more information, please contact director Melissa Newbrey (702-469-0993) or music coordinator Beth Kassulke (520-260-3649).

English as a Second Language

The 15th year of our English as a Second Language program begins tomorrow, September 14 at 6:30 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall. If you know of anyone who might be interested in participating please let them know! *ESL runs Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM September through May.*



**Grace is one congregation
at FOUR places!**

**Enjoy worship, Bible study and activities
at Grace locations in
Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson and Vail.**

This Week at Grace • Sept 13-Sept 20

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
 Coffee Fellowship following both services
 Children's Sunday School 8:45a
 Youth Confirmation Class..... 8:45a
 Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
 Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
 • *Hard Sayings of Jesus* 9:00a
 International Friends at Grace-Tucson..... 3:00p
Call Meeting 3:00p
 TCM: *What Does God Say About Gambling?*..... 7:00p

Monday

Handbell Practice 4:30p
 English as a Second Language Classes Begin! 6:30p

SAHUARITA

Today

Worship Service 9:45a
 Sahuarita Church Picnic following worship
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson 3:00p

Wednesday

NO Bible Study

Saturday

Women of Grace Brunch Meeting at Grace-Tucson.... 10:00a

Sunday

Worship Service 9:45a
 Coffee Fellowship following worship

BENSON

Today

Worship Service/Communion..... 7:30a
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson 3:00p

Wednesday

Bible Study: *Interactive Faith Bible Study* 6:00p

Saturday

Women of Grace Brunch Meeting at Grace-Tucson.... 10:00a

Sunday

Worship Service 7:30a

Tuesday

Saguaro Circuit Meeting..... 1:00p
 English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

Wednesday

Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* 10:00a
 Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* 6:30p

Thursday

NO Women's Bible Study.....

Saturday

Women of Grace Brunch Meeting 10:00a

Sunday

Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
 Coffee Fellowship following both services
 Children's Sunday School 8:45a
 Youth Confirmation Class..... 8:45a
 Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
 Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a
 • *Hard Sayings of Jesus* 9:00a
 WELS TCM Bible Study: *Pizza & a Prophet: Hosea* 7:00p

VAIL

Today

Bible Study: *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
 Children's Sunday School 9:00a
 Youth Confirmation 9:00a
 Worship Service/Communion 10:00a
 Coffee Fellowship following worship
Call Meeting at Grace-Tucson 3:00p

Wednesday

Bible Study: *Interactive Faith Bible Study*..... 6:00p

Saturday

Women of Grace Brunch Meeting at Grace-Tucson 10:00a

Sunday

Bible Study: *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
 Children's Sunday School 9:00a
 Worship Service 10:00a
 Coffee Fellowship following worship

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Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net