

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2011



***“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”***

***-Matthew 16:24***

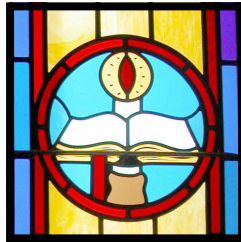


***From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.***

***John 1:16***

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

*Christian Worship*



### WELCOME

### HYMN

**Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me**

*Christian Worship #428*

### 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 - Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

4 ALL Arr. Kathy Parra

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

9 WOMEN Bless-ed are they who take re - fuge in him. MEN Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; —

16 WOMEN it stands firm in the heav - - - ens. ALL Your Your

21 faith - ful - ness con - ti - nues for - ev - - - - er. faith - ful - ness con - ti - nues for - ev - - - - er.

26 rit. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. rit. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

31 Bless - ed are they who take re - fuge in him. Bless - ed are they who take re - fuge in him.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

**BE SEATED**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Judges 16:22-31**

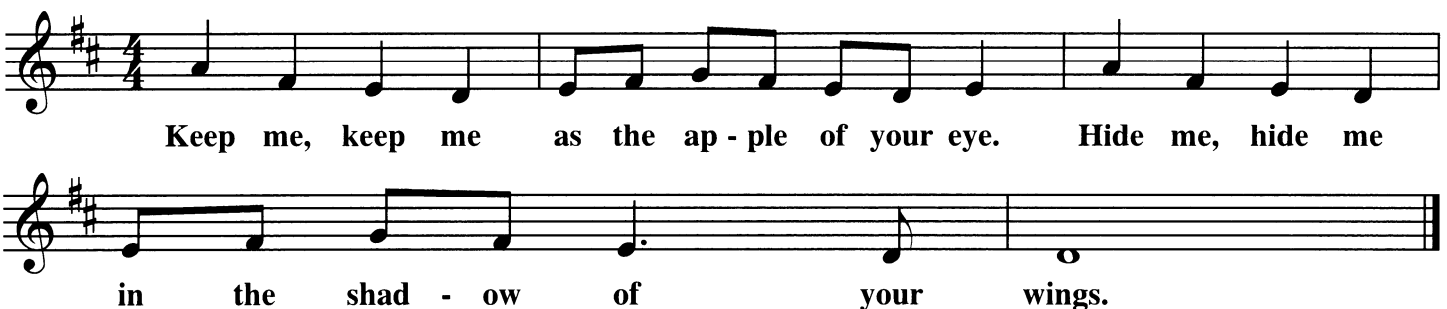
But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.” When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, “Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain.” While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men

and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived. Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

**Psalms 121**

*Refrain*



### Psalm tone



1. I lift up my eyes / to the hills.\*  
Where does my help / come from?
2. My help comes / from the LORD,\*  
the maker of heav- / en and earth.
3. He will not let your / foot slip,\*  
he who watches over you will not / slumber;
4. indeed, he who watches over / Israel\*  
will neither slum- / ber nor sleep.
5. The LORD watches / over you,\*  
the LORD is your shade at / your right hand.
6. The LORD will keep you / from all harm,\*  
he will watch o- / ver your life;
7. the LORD will watch over your coming and / going\*  
both now and for- / evermore.
8. **Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy / Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be- / ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

### Refrain

### Refrain

## SECOND LESSON

## Galatians 6:12-16

Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast except in the

cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! These words are  
writ - ten that we may be - lieve that Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of  
God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



**STAND**

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 16:21-26**

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the

things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"



**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**BE SEATED**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken**  
*Christian Worship #465*

**SERMON**

**Matthew 16:21-26**  
**Keep in Mind the Things of God**

**STAND**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

**BE SEATED**

## THANKSGIVING

**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 pew and pass it along. Thank You!*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**7:45 AM**

**Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways**  
*Christian Worship #462*

**STAND**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C:** **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

**M:** You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C:** **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

**M:** Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C:** **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

**M:** Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C:** **Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C:** **We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.

*BE SEATED*

## HYMN

**Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke**  
*Christian Worship #453*

*STAND*

**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.

**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.

*BE SEATED*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CLOSING HYMN

**In the Cross of Christ I Glory**  
*Christian Worship #345*



THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Worship Leader .....Pastor Colin Rieke, *Grace’s Mission Pastor to Vail*  
Preacher .....Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
Accompanists.....Gloria Gerdts, Amanda Schulz (7:45 AM)  
Teri Guenther (10:00 AM)  
Ushers.....Vernon Neal, Vic Thornton (7:45 AM)  
Sound & Recording Tech ..... Jeremy Snavelly (10:00 AM)

Memorial Service

Irma Wismer was called to her heavenly home Tuesday, September 20. Visitation will be tomorrow, September 26 from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM at Adair Funeral Home (1050 N. Dodge Blvd). A memorial service will be held at Grace later that afternoon at 3:30 PM.

Pastor Clemons Called to be a Christian Giving Counselor

The Wisconsin Synod Conference of Presidents has issued a Divine Call to Pastor Clemons to serve as a Christian Giving Counselor for the Arizona-California and South Central Districts.

Christian Giving Counselors work for the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving. There are two types of Gift Planning Counselors in our Synod. Current Giving Counselors specialize in gifts that help fund the Synod immediately. Deferred Giving Counselors specialize in gifts that help the Synod in the future. Pastor Clemons’ Call is to be a Current Giving Counselor.

Acceptance of the Call would necessitate a move to Phoenix in order to be closer to a major airport.

Until a decision is reached Pastor Clemons holds two calls—one to continue as the Visitation Pastor at Grace and one to be a Christian Giving Counselor. Please keep him and Mary in your prayers as he considers whether to continue to serve the Lord here at Grace or to accept the Call to serve the Synod as a Giving Counselor. As always, your thoughts or questions regarding this Call are welcome.

Roast Beef Dinner / Branches Band Concert / Craft Fair—Oct 14

Come, bring a friend, and enjoy good food and fellowship on Friday, October 14 from 4:30-6:00 PM in the Grace Fellowship Hall, then stay for the concert by the WELS group Branches Band at 7:00 PM in the church. While you wait for the concert, make sure to check out the items at our Craft Fair that will be held in conjunction with the meal.

The menu includes: roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, dinner rolls, and an assortment of pies. If you would like to bring a pie or bag of potatoes, help prepare the meal, or clean up, please sign up on the sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

\*There will be a free-will gift offering for the Women of Grace at the dinner and for Branches Band at the concert.



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### ***To Aid You in Worship...***

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

## **Welcome to Grace!**

**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.

**Altar flowers** have been given by the Kania Family in celebration of Helen Kania's birthday.

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### ***Read Ahead for Next Sunday:***

Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Galatians 2:11-21  
Matthew 18:15-20

### ***Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:***

Galatians 2:11-21  
*The Troubled State of the  
Church of God*

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### **You Are Invited**

You are invited to a coffee fellowship following 10:00 AM worship today hosted by the Kania Family in celebration of Helen Kania's birthday. Please join us in the courtyard.

### **Anniversary Service & Special Bible Class**

Sunday, October 9 at 10:00 AM is our second special anniversary service. Our Synod President, Rev. Mark Schroeder, will preach that morning. He will also have a special question/answer meeting prior to 10:00 AM worship. This meeting will be held in the church at 9:00 AM in place of the regular Bible Class, so come with questions. The anniversary service will be our only scheduled worship service on October 9 (no 7:45 AM worship). The meal following the service will be catered by El Molinito. There will be sign-up sheets in the courtyard this morning for those attending the meal.

### **Anniversary Table in the Courtyard**

Members of the Anniversary Committee will be manning an anniversary table in the courtyard this morning. They will have the sign-up sheets for the anniversary meal (**please sign up!**) along with 100th Anniversary keepsakes to commemorate this special occasion. A history of the Grace congregation is available for \$10 (which is our printing cost). Anniversary cookbooks (each comes with a dish cloth) and Christmas ornaments are also available for a suggested donation of \$10. **Be sure to stop by and sign up for the El Molinito catered meal on October 9!**

### **Support the Lifeliners**

The Lifeliners, members of our high school youth group, are selling Entertainment Coupon Books (\$30) and Bible Verse Calendars (\$8 or 2 for \$15) beginning today. Visit their table in the Courtyard to make your purchase. All proceeds support Lifeline activities, including the 2012 WELS International Youth Rally.

### Sunday

- Worship Services..... 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School..... 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class ..... 8:45a
- Adult Bible Class: *The Life of Christ: The Child Jesus* ..... 9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study*..... 9:00a
- Coffee Fellowship Following 10 AM Worship .....
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry Bible Study..... 7:00p

### Monday

- Financial Peace University in Vail..... 12:00p
- Visitation at Adair Funeral Home**..... 11:00a-12:00p
- Memorial Service at Grace for Irma Wismer** ..... 3:30p
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

### Tuesday

- Saguaro Circuit Pastors' Meeting at Grace..... 1:00p
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

### Wednesday

- Midweek Bible Class: *Church History*..... 10:00a
- NEW!** Handbells Practice in the church basement..... 5:30p
- Wind Ensemble ..... 5:30p
- Midweek Bible Class: *Church History*..... 6:45p
- NEW!** Bible Study in Vail ..... 7:00p

### Thursday

- Women's Bible Study: *Prayer* ..... 9:00a
- Financial Peace University at Grace ..... 6:30p
- Worship Choir..... 6:30p

### Saturday

- LWMS Fall Rally in Tempe** ..... 8:30a

### Sunday

- Worship Services/Communion..... 7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School ..... 8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class..... 8:45a
- Adult Bible Class: *The Life of Christ: The Child Jesus*..... 9:00a
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Visit us on the web:

[www.GraceTucsonWELS.com](http://www.GraceTucsonWELS.com)

[www.facebook.com/GraceTucsonWELS](http://www.facebook.com/GraceTucsonWELS)

### **New Bible Study in Vail**

Pastor Rieke has just begun a new Bible study at the home of Eric & Julie Prigge (5391 S. Black Falls Dr, 85747) on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. They are going through the book "Prepared to Answer." Each class is a different subject, so come when you can!

### **Women's Bible Study on Prayer**

Join Pastor Koehler and your sisters in Christ Thursdays at 9:00 AM for a series of discussions on Prayer. We are using the People's Bible Teaching book *Prayer—An Audience with the King* as our guide. If you've ever wondered HOW to pray, WHY to pray, WHAT prayer is (and is not!), this is the class for you. Your prayer life is very important to God. Come hear him tell you why.

### **Prayer Partners**

There is interest in starting a prayer chain at Grace. We are now seeking the names of members who would like to be Prayer Partners. Prayer Partners could be any member who would like to pray for the needs of others. People with prayer requests would be able to submit those requests to a coordinator who would notify the Prayer Partners of the request by e-mail or phone. If you're interested in being a Prayer Partner contact Pastor Clemons or call the church office (623-6633).

### **Prescriptions**

Many of us purchase prescriptions on a regular basis! Did you know you can get **Scrip** for CVS and Walgreens and you can use **Scrip** for the grocery store and WalMart/Sam's Club pharmacies as well? Benefit our church, Arizona Lutheran Academy and our children by purchasing **Scrip** from Vic and Lois Thornton (after early service and after Bible Class) or Debbie Koehler (after second service) at the **Scrip** table in the courtyard today! Not sure what **Scrip** is? Just ask!



## Canvassing in Vail

Next Sunday after the 10:00 AM service Pastor Rieke will hold a Canvassing Workshop in the Fellowship Hall for our upcoming canvassing 'blitz' for Grace-Vail. This workshop will go through our canvassing strategy in Vail, and also show how painless knocking on doors can be. This will be in preparation for our first canvassing 'blitz' in Rita Ranch on Saturday, October 8 @ 9:00AM. We will have at least 5 canvassing blitzes before our first monthly service on December 11. Anybody is welcome to attend, and by attending the Canvassing Workshop you are not committing to anything. But following the workshop Pastor Rieke will look for commitments for the October 8 blitz. This is a great way to serve and have some fun at the same time, hopefully many can make it. Listed below are more of the upcoming workshops and blitzes:

<u>Canvassing Workshop</u>	<u>Canvassing Blitz</u>
Sunday, October 2 @ 11:11AM	Saturday, October 8 @ 9:00AM
Sunday, October 16 @ 11:11AM	Saturday, October 22 @ 9:00AM
Sunday, October 30 @ 11:11AM	Saturday, November 5 @ 9:00AM
Sunday, November 13 @ 11:11AM	Saturday, November 19 @ 9:00AM
Sunday, November 27 @ 11:11AM	Saturday, December 3 @ 9:00AM