

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – Oct. 4, 2026
19th Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday



I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. – Philippians 3:12

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Volunteer – Communion: Tammy Menkes & Jill Werling – Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Tech: John Current & Bob Bausser – Counters: Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Bread of the World* by Hodges

Call to Worship —

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

The world and those who live in it.

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

We will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

*Opening Hymn — #516 “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

*Call to Confession —

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way.

But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation.

Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

*Prayer of Confession —

As we come today to your great table, O God, we realize how small we have made our own. Our vision of your grace is too narrow. Our awareness of your mercy is too limited. Our understanding of your kingdom always falls short. We fail to measure up to the people you have called us to be. Hear our prayers and forgive our shortcomings. Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits, so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus. Amen.

Time for silent confession

*Assurance of Pardon —

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, across time and space and through the generations, God seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Assurance #581 “Gloria Patri”

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Time for Music & Meditation

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Psalm Reading – Psalm 19:1-14

p.858

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem — #509 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Epistle Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

p.1828

4b If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 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;

6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

9 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 on the basis of faith.

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Rooted at One Table – Rev. Sandy Garcia

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Hymn of Response – #525 “Let Us Break Bread Together”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

God of grace, you gather your people from every nation, language, and place.
Lord, we ask you to . . .

Root us in your grace. Grow us together in love.

We pray for your church throughout the world. Where there is division, bring reconciliation; where there is suffering, bring hope. Lord, we ask you to . . .

Root us in your grace. Grow us together in love.

We pray for our neighbors and community. Help us welcome the stranger,

notice the lonely, and make room for all who long to belong. Lord, we ask you to . . .

Root us in your grace. Grow us together in love.

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, anxious, hungry, or carrying burdens known only to you.

Time for spoken or silent prayers.

God of every people and every place, receive our prayers and make us one in Christ. Lord, we ask you to . . .

Root us in your grace. Grow us together in love. Amen.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

People will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

They will come with hope, and they will come with doubts. They will come with faith, and they will come with fears. They will come with love, and they will come with regrets.

They will come from all over. They will cross barriers and boundaries. They will come because God longs for it to be so.

Today, we join God's people across the globe and the saints of every time and place as we come to this Table.

Look around this Table. The breads before us remind us that Christ's church speaks many languages, comes from many cultures, worships in many places, and yet we belong to one body.

This is Christ's Table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. You created us for relationship—with you, with one another, and with all creation. When we wandered, you called us home. When relationships were broken, you worked toward reconciliation. When we forgot who we were, you reminded us that we belong to you. Through prophets and teachers, saints and ordinary people, you continued calling your people to justice, mercy, faithfulness, and love.

And today we remember that your people are gathered in sanctuaries and homes, in cities and villages, in places of peace and places torn apart by war, speaking languages we know and languages we have never heard, breaking breads familiar to us and breads we have never tasted. Yet in Christ, we are one. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the saints of every time and place and with all creation, singing:

#556 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord. In him, your love came among us in flesh and blood. Jesus welcomed the stranger, ate with those others rejected, touched those others avoided, forgave sinners, challenged divisions, and gathered unlikely people around the same table. He showed us that love is more than a feeling. Love draws near. Love listens. Love forgives. Love seeks justice. Love makes room. And when we failed to love, Christ loved us still. Therefore, we remember his life, his death, his resurrection, and his promise to be with us always. And we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#557 “Christ Has Died, Christ is Risen”

Prayer of the Holy Spirit

Gracious Holy Spirit, come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in ministry to all the world.

Where relationships are strained, give us patience. Where wounds remain, bring healing. Where misunderstanding divides us, teach us to listen. Where loneliness takes root, make us a community of belonging. Where nations are divided, make us people of peace. Where neighbors have become strangers, teach us again to see one another. Where people hunger—for food, for safety, for friendship, for hope—send your church to meet them with the love of Christ.

At this Table, remind us again that we do not belong to Christ alone—we belong to one another. Root us deeply in grace, that together we may grow into the people you are calling us to become. Until that day when people from every nation, every language, every place, and every generation are gathered at your heavenly Table, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

#558 “Amen.”

Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

For every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes again.

Family in Christ, look again at this Table. Today, breads from different cultures remind us of tables around the world. But there is one Bread of Life.

There are many congregations. There are many languages. There are many traditions. There are many ways to sing, pray, and praise God. But there is one body of Christ. And there is room at Christ's Table.

Our Savior invites all who trust in him, and all who seek him, to come and share in this feast of grace.

Come, not because you have earned a place, but because Christ has made a place for you.

Come, for all is ready.

Communion

(Please come forward as directed. Receive a piece of bread and dip it into the cup.

Gluten-free bread will also be available.)

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, thank you for welcoming us to your Table and feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. You have gathered us with your people from every nation, language, culture, and place and reminded us that in Christ, we are one.

Having received your grace, send us now to share it. Where there is loneliness, help us make room. Where there is division, make us peacemakers. Where there is hunger, teach us to share. Where there are strangers, help us become neighbors.

Root us deeply in your grace, and grow us together in love, until all your children feast together at your heavenly Table. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Generosity Moment

Call to Offering

At Christ's Table, we discover a grace that is freely given and meant to be shared. Let us respond with gratitude, offering our gifts for Christ's work in our church, our community, and our world.

Offertory — *Bread and Wine* by Blake

*Doxology — #606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray: Generous God, receive these gifts and use them to share your love beyond these walls. May they feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, strengthen your church, and help your people grow together in grace. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn — #498 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude — *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* by Webb

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pulpit Swap October 11th: Next Sunday, Grace will be hosting Pastor Terry Epling, from First Presbyterian Bluffton. Make sure to introduce yourself as this is a great opportunity for connection between our congregations.

Halloween at Grace: Our annual trunk or treat is coming up. We need volunteers and candy! Currently, there is a bin in the narthex for candy donations. Also, a sign up for decorated cars and helpers to hand out candy will be out soon.

Per Capita: Just a friendly reminder, if you haven’t paid your \$46.06 for 2026, you still can.

Financial Literacy Opportunity: On October 23rd (6:00 PM) & 24th (9:00 AM), Grace’s Generosity Team will be offering their first two classes, one on freedom from debt and the other how to save for your future. There is more information in the narthex. If you’re attending, please contact Stacey so she can plan the materials.

Congregational Life Game Day: October 24th, at 2:00 PM, we will be playing games

here in the fellowship hall. Join team German or team Werling as we battle it out for prizes. People coming are encouraged to bring a snack to share. Everyone welcome.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of comfort for the Family of Laura Fuller.
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.

Birthdays

Quinn Fahrenbach - October 5

Colbie Geist - October 6

Anniversaries

Worship Volunteers for October 11, 2026

Lay Leader – Bob Bausser

Children’s Message – Todd German

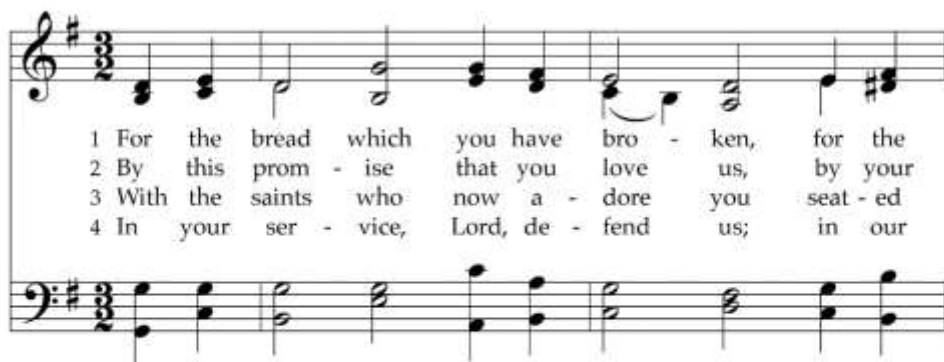
Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler

Technology – Todd German & Bob Bausser

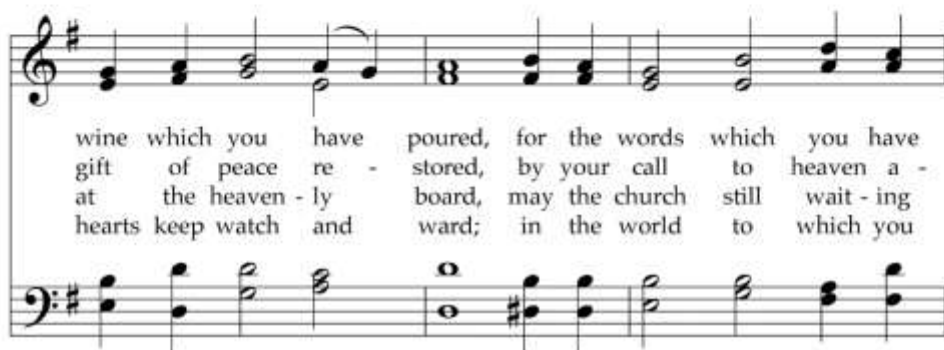
Counters – Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf

LORD'S SUPPER

516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at the heaven - ly board, may the church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The author of this text, the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.

TEXT: Louis Fitzgerald Benson, 1924, alt;
 MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959

KINGDOM
 8.7.8.7

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988
 Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

LET US BREAK BREAD
 10.10 with refrain

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

498

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B^b

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D) F (Bm) Dm

le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
 room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
 gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am
 name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G) B^b (D) F (A) C

food for - ev - er - more.
 came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
 with you; do not fear!"
 tell your love and care.

(Bm) Dm (F[#]m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B^b (A) C (D) F

for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm) Dm (G) B^b (D) F

gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The first two stanzas of this text deal with events in the past (the feeding of the multitude and the Last Supper) and the final two with events in the present. The recurring last four lines of each stanza serve as an affirmation of Christ's continuing presence at all times.

TEXT: Herman G. Stoempfle Jr., 2005

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

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Music Harm., © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.10