

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414

(269) 945-2645

Fax: (269) 945-2698

Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

E-mail: gracehastingspastor@gmail.com

That's No Bunk!

Too often the arrival of the gospel's joyful surprise gets redelivered as some kind of grim omen handing out a multiple choice test asking you to choose the right way to belong, to be saved, to be righteous:

- a. Be good enough
- b. Know enough
- c. Believe enough
- d. All of the above and endless other "enoughs"
- e. None of the above

Enough already! A nontechnical, not particularly theological, but remarkably apt reaction is "that's bunk," which is similar to "that's a bunch of hooey," which translates to "that's not right," which leads back to the un-gospel quiz where the correct answer is "e."

On a cold winter day a restless crowd gathered around Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem. The contentious bunch was on pins and needles; hot tensions steamed the chilly holy city air. "We want a simple, unambiguous, no complications answer! Are you the Messiah?" Test time. What right answer could Jesus offer the testy inquisitors?

He replied: Clearly all that I have said about who I am has not convinced you. So listen, yes, listen, but all the more *look* and see the way I am revealed by moments of mercy, spectacles of forgiveness, and choices of compassion. Watch my way with the shamed and my scandalous behavior toward the untouchables. Then hear my voice. Dare to be like sheep who, stumbling and limping and tripping and meandering all the way, do take the risk. Hazard to believe that in me there is life to be had, a life that will not come to an end and that no one can take away.

Discovering the Messiah may not always be plain. It can be ambiguous and hard to understand, but always, always it will be gracious and life-giving. That's the joyful gospel. And that's no bunk!

4th Sunday of Easter

April 17, 2016

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. It's because of his death and resurrection that we are assured of forgiveness from our sins, and everlasting life with God. The liturgical colors are white, a color of triumph and glory, and gold, a color of joy.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Temple Talk

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

When Long Before Time

ELW 861 (red book)

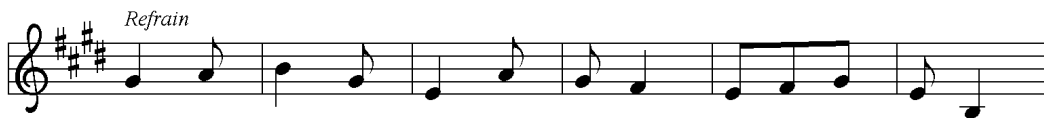
Greeting

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration



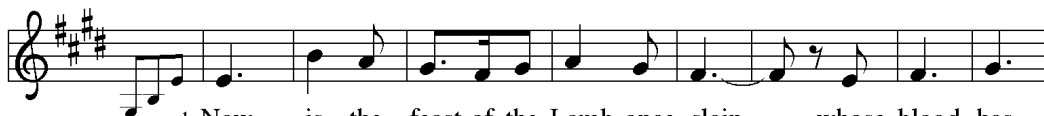
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray . . . O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep.

G By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

L A reading from **Acts:**

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without

delay.”³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.”

▲ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 23

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780 (red book)

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.

▮ A reading from **Revelation:**

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

▲ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we

go? ____ You have the words of e - ter - nal

life: Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

P The Gospel according to **John**.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Message

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.

Message

Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day

The Lord’s My Shepherd

ELW 778 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

Prayer Response



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

A Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy and mighty God, fulfill your saving work on behalf of all who give thanks for your great love for this creation. Make our song strong enough to invite all hurting people into your family. Honor the obedience of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea, St. John Lutheran Church in Rogers City, St Ambrose Catholic Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

A Make us ever conscious of how we use and consume the gifts you have given us on the earth and in the oceans. Open our eyes to see creation as good, useful, and worthy of care. Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

A Give your wisdom to people who make decisions that affect others. Fill human institutions with your reconciling justice. When we oppress people, disrupt us and heal our hearts. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright and Tim Krewson. Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

A Respond to the call of people who cry out in grief, in loneliness or despair, or in chronic pain or illness. Embrace them with your compassion. We pray especially for *Raylan Gavin Gibbons, Shawn Nunnink, Jamie Coplín, Gale Morway, Mary Rider, and Cynthia Hansen*. Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

A With your very presence sustain communities that are formed out of common struggle: among those who are widowed, among children without parents, and among people who have no permanent shelter. Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

A Gracious God, hear the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

A You give strength to the saints by fulfilling your promise of eternal life. Shepherd us in paths of righteousness, that we may know life now and in the age to come. Christ is Risen;

C (prayer response).

☐ We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord.

☑ Amen.

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ And also with you.

(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts & Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offertory Prayer

☐ Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

☑ Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 God thanks and praise." The score includes performance directions: "Presider:" and "Congregation:".

☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and earth and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and joint their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

☞ You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God, creator of heaven and earth; everything, everywhere is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for the promise you gave to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, that through their descendants you would bless the whole family on earth. We give thanks for the steadfast love you showed to their offspring: You delivered them from Egypt, bound yourself to them in covenant, sent them liberators and prophets, brought them home from exile.

When the time had fully come, you kept your promise by sending Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice and peace. He was obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

We remember how on the night of his betrayal our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his command that we love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Congregation:

A - men, Come, Lord Je - sus; A -

men, Come, Lord Je - sus.

☐ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

A - men. Come, Ho - ly

Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ Gather our prayers with those of the apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all the faithful who have gone before us, and unite them with the unceasing prayer of the One who lives in us and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the

u-ni-ty of the Spir - it all glo - ry and hon - or is

yours, O God, now and for - ev - er,



Lord's Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:

☑ **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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation To Communion

☐ The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

Sit

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us.

Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear:

You are the way of justice and peace:

You are the way of mercy and love:

You are the bread of life for us all:

You pour your Holy Spirit on us:

Final time:

Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484 (red book)

We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW 518

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal.

☩ **Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

Ⓟ The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of † Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

☩ **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Hymn

Shout to the Lord

ELW 821 (red book)

Sending

Ⓐ Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

☩ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

We depart for study, service and fellowship.

If you forgot to place your Participation Card in the offering plate, you can still drop it off in the basket outside the sanctuary.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 85

Weekly Giving: \$2,268.88

Budget

Amount: \$4,233.32

Grace's updated website is now live! check out the new website at www.grace-lutheran.org
Suggestions, ideas and feedback should be provided to Pastor Paul at 269-945-9414 or Kate Watson 269-205-2462.

April is Food Donation Month at Grace Each Sunday we will collect different foodstuffs for the pantry in Hastings, located at Green Street Church (UMC). Next week we want to fill the food box, just outside Pastor Paul's office, to the brim, so shop for cleaning products and bring in an overflowing bag for the poor of our village and county.

God's Children will be meeting at Grace on April 20th from 5:30-7. Kids will be fed a light dinner.

Grace is decluttering and letting go of two of our four pianos. If you are interested in one or both, please contact Kate Watson at 269-205-2462. Otherwise we will be selling them.

On May 13-14, the City of Hastings will be holding its annual Community-Wide Garage Sale. With the de-cluttering taking place throughout April at Grace, we have gathered all kinds of valuable things we would like to offer during the community sale, to be held in our parking lot. The money gathered at this event will go towards the purchase of new carpet and flooring for the church. If you have things you would like to donate to the church for the garage sale, we would appreciate them immensely! See the back of the participation card for more volunteer opportunities during the Garage Sale at Grace.

Welcome Brunch for new members - Plans are underway for a welcome brunch to be held at Grace for our new members. The date has been set for Sunday, May 15th (Pentecost). The brunch will be between the 2 services. Please check the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Curt Johnson	Kate Watson
Lector	John Burdick	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Emmalee Peck
Ushers	Dan/Melissa Patton	Gary/Lisa Golnek
	Jan Schreiner	Dollie Larsen
	Karen Halstead	Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Chris Bush	Eve Wright
Nursery	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Children's Church</i>
Chancel Team	Diana Brown	Jeannette Ulrich

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, April 24, 2016

Assisting Ministers	Steve Kaiser	Connor Wales
Cantor	Choir	Choir
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Deanna Reid
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Jack Barnaart
Ushers	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton, Gwen
Hansen		
	Dave Neeb, Mark Anton	Sandy Mosteller, Joe
Longcor		
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Kay Howell
Nursery	Dan/Melissa Patton	<i>Children's Church</i>
Chancel Team	Diana Brown	Jeannette Ulrich

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, April 17

Middle School Youth Group 5:30 pm

Tuesday, April 19

High School Youth Group 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 20

Council meeting 6:00 pm

Word Watchers 10:00 am

God's Children 5:30 pm

Thursday, April 21

Prayer Group 6:00 pm

Clapper Kids 3:45 pm

Grace Notes 5:45 pm