

Grace Lutheran Church

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Peace in the Flesh

When we gather for worship on Sundays, we sing, we hear God’s word, we pray, and then, just before we share the meal at God’s table, there is this strange thing we do: we share a sign of God’s peace. Or, to be exact, we shake hands or hug the people around us, saying “Peace be with you!” or “Peace of the Lord!” In doing so, we echo the words of Jesus: “Peace I leave with you” (John 14:27).

But what does this mean? Peace as a feeling of tranquility and relaxation? Peace as the absence of disagreement? Peace as a diplomatic solution to global tensions? What exactly is the peace Christ gives us?

True peace is not a feeling, nor is it a policy or a program; it is a person. “For he (Christ) is our peace” (Eph. 2:14). Peace is enemies being reconciled, strangers becoming brothers and sisters. Peace is the healing of a broken and polluted earth, the poor being lifted up, the oppressed set free, the lonely welcomed. Peace is community.

All of us have experienced this peace at some point in our lives—perhaps in the forgiveness of a friend, the love of a mother, or the unexpected generosity of a stranger. When we gather around the water of baptism, the meal of the eucharist, and the word of the gospel, we come to seek that peace in each other. And because we all need reminders occasionally, we take time to say out loud in the middle of worship, “The peace of Christ be with you always.” And as we look around at the people gathered here, our words become flesh: the peace Christ left for us is reaching out to us in one another.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our 2-sided Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning. The purpose for this card is two-fold: 1) to help the Shepherds determine who has not been in worship so that they can respond to any needs those members might have (illness, pastoral concerns, etc); and 2) to meet our visitors

6th Sunday of Easter

May 1, 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

Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart

ELW 800 (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

Refrain

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

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the refrain, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;'. The third staff concludes the refrain with lyrics: 'praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!'. The fourth staff begins the first line of the hymn with lyrics: '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 . . . Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life.

G Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

L A reading from **Acts**:

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 67

All Sing Refrain

Cantor sings verses/light print

God has gone up with a shout.

¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God’s face | shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth. ☒**

⁵Let the peoples | praise you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. ☒

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

□ A reading from **Revelation**:

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

▣ The word of the Lord.

▣ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

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 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

P The Gospel according to **John**.

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

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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.

Children's Church (10:45 only)

Children ages 0 to 5th grade are invited to follow our volunteers to the Elementary Classroom for a brief lesson. Parents of children 3 and under should accompany their child. The children will rejoin worship during the passing of the peace.

Message

Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day

The Peace of the Lord

ELW 646 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

Prayer Response

Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life.

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 God, ruler of the nations, renew your call to all people. Raise up leaders who are eager to follow you into justice, love, and truth. 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, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Rose City, St Cyril Methodius in Wayland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Lead us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Nourish all lands through springs, rivers, lakes, pools, and irrigation systems. Produce abundant food by the flowing of your Spirit throughout creation. Lead us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Help us to extend your hospitality and inspire us to share the grace of Christ in places near and far. Use even small interactions to usher in peace for all people. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright and Tim Krewson. Lead us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Send compassionate servants to those who live with health concerns in body, mind, or spirit. Deliver your healing and peace to all in need. We pray especially for *Shawn Nunnink, Ervin Daugherty Jr, Jill & Shakeria Methvin, Cynthia Hansen, John Robert Kleinbrink, Jim Peters, Sandy Nowrocke, Jerica Olney and Corrina Palmer*. Lead us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Bear the burdens of people who long to work, yet remain unemployed or underemployed. Give them dignity when they seek help, and place them where their gifts may be used. Lead us, O God,

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 Lead us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A You have given blessed salvation to all your saints. Thank you for writing our names also in the book of life. Make us Christ's presence for others while we await his coming. Lead us, O God,

G (prayer response).

P 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.

G Amen.

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G 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

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

G 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

Presider: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider: Congregation: Presider:

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

☐ 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, _____

A - - - men. _____

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.

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.

Sit



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:

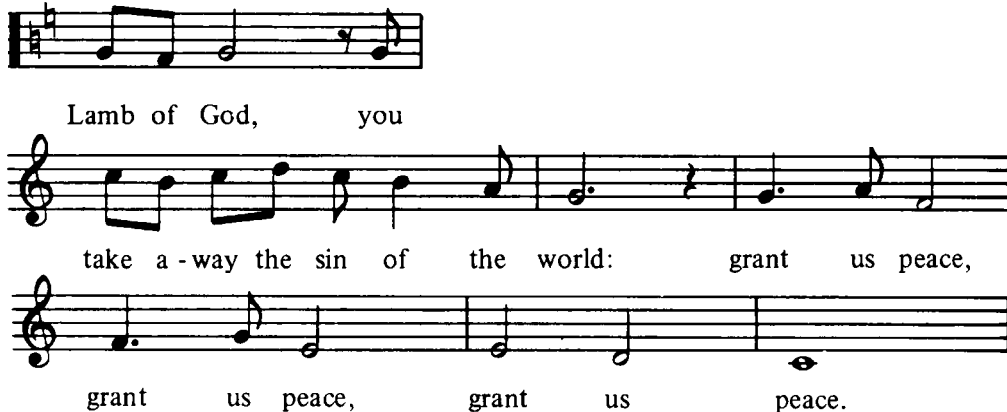
You are the way of justice and peace:

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.

Amazing Grace

ELW 779 (red book)

I Received the Living God

WOV 700 (blue book)

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

WOV 706

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

Soon and Very Soon

WOV 744

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: 101

Weekly Giving: \$2,237.00

Budget

Amount: \$4,233.32

NO Choir rehearsal on May 5th

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. Plan to participate and welcome our new members to the family at Grace.

Commitment Sunday will be May 15. Time and talent sheets and commitment forms will be handed out and collected on that Sunday.

Stewardship Committee Calendar

1. Commitment Sunday ~ May 15
2. Congregation budget review & questions between services on June 5 & June 12
3. Present budget to Council for review & approval ~ June 17
4. Annual meeting ~ July 10

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

Fellowship Hall/Kitchen – there are multiple bowls and containers on a table outside the kitchen. Stop back and take a look and claim what it yours. Anything left will be placed into the garage sale in May.

Office calendar – it is the responsibility of each group to ensure that their events, meetings, etc are on the calendar on the office door prior to publication of the paper calendar at the end of the month.

Contribution statements will now be provided twice a year rather than quarterly as they have been in the past. The next statements will be available in early July.

New Phone number for Kristi Winick – 269-953-6638

Today's Worship Leaders

8:00 am

10:45am

Assisting Ministers	Lorie Gladyness	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Lorie Gladyness	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Hope Peck
Ushers	Karen Halstead	Doug/Diane Neeb
	Jan Schreiner	Dave Neeb
	Dan/Melissa Patton	Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Bill/Lorraine Freedlund
Nursery	Cheryl Drumm	Children's Church
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 8, 2016

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Steve Kaiser	Vickey Argo
Lector	Chris Bush	Bill Freedlund
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Gabe Barnaart
Ushers	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gary/Lisa Golnek
	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Dollie Larsen, Mark
Anton		
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Steve/Peg Kaiser	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Nursery	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Children's Church
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today May 1	Children's Church 10:45 am Middle School Youth Group 5:00 pm High School Youth Group 6:00 pm
Monday, May 2	Communication team 10:00 am Community Outreach 11:00 am
Tuesday, May 3	Executive Committee 5:30 pm Worship Committee 6:30 pm
Wednesday, May 4	Word Watchers 10:00 am Prayer Group 6:00 pm
Thursday, May 5	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:45 pm Choir 7:15 pm
Saturday, May 7	BOG Tigers game 6:30 am