

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

Pastor Paul Nuechterlein
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Gathered in Abundance

Every Sunday, Christians around the world gather together for worship. Alarm clocks (or cell phones) ring, faces get washed, clothes are picked out, breakfasts get eaten. Then we hop on a bus, get in a car, ride a bike, or set out by foot. From our many residences, our many lives and schedules and commitments, we gather together into one body to celebrate the abundance of God's grace and to carry that grace out into the world in service of others.

In today's parable we hear of a similar gathering. A landowner calls together more and more people waiting for work in the marketplace to reap an abundant harvest. Despite drawing them in at different times and in different ways, the landowner graciously gives each one a full day's pay. Understandably, the workers who have worked all day recoil at being paid the same as those who came at the end. But the parable points us toward a different way of seeing the situation. God knows the realities of our lives deeply. God knows the place from which God has called us, our unique history, story, hurts, and gifts. Though we are gathered with others, God's grace speaks to each of us directly, uniquely, and fully. We can come into God's presence expecting to receive all that we need for the coming week.

As you prepare for worship, spend time thinking about where you most need God's grace in your life. What are the realities in the week behind you or the week ahead of you that are the hardest to face? Know that where your needs abound, God's grace abounds even more. Extend that generosity around you as well. Look around at the faces of those gathered with you this day. Where have the people around you come from? Where is God calling you to work by passing God's grace onto others?

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23413.

BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2017

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Song

Rise Up, O Saints of God

ELW 669 (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.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray . . . Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

☑ **Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

☐ A reading from **Jonah:**

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for

himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8



¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²**Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power. ☑**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. ☑**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

☐ A reading from **Philippians**:

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

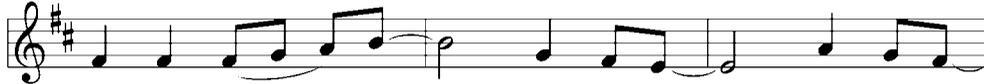
²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



☑ 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

Matthew 20-1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **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

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

As Saints of Old

ELW 695 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A Let us pray for the church and its ministry. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea; Bethany Lutheran Church in Kaleva, Nashville United Methodist Church;* and Minister of Music Cindy. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A God who stretched the spangled heavens, we thank and praise you for the gift of the sun, moon, stars, mountains, valleys, grasslands, and deserts. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. Guard those who suffer because of dishonest policies, corrupt government, or unfair labor practices. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A God, you provide for all our needs. We pray for those who are homeless, jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those who are forgotten, ignored, or isolated. We pray for all in any need. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Kris Gilbert, Barbara Macaully, Kathy & Ken Plourde, Judy & Bill Heil and Jeanne & Ron Bush.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for our congregation and our neighborhood. Accompany us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Give us joy in the present and hope for the future. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and patience for our congregation while we wait for our next Pastor. Let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A God of endings and beginnings, we remember before you all the faithful departed. Comfort those who mourn. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

G **Amen.**

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

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

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Create in Me

TFF

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor.

C Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen

Stand as you are able

Again, 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, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,

- ☒ **we await that day when all the people of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- ☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- ☒ **let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**
- ☐ Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
- ☒ **both now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:
- ☒ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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

- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Lord of All Hopefulness
In The Singing
One Bread, One Body

ELW 765 (red book)
ELW 466
ELW 496

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous.

☑ May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

☐ God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **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 Song

Jesus Call Us; O'er the Tumult

ELW 696 (red book)

Dismissal

☐ Go in peace. Sound the good news.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, September 24

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Adult Forum 9:30 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Monday, September 25

Congregational Care 3:00 pm

LACS rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 26

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 93

Weekly Giving: \$2,808.00

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, canned pasta (ie, ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc) , boxed instant mashed potatoes.

Pastor Paul Nuechterlein, who is presiding today, is recently retired (2015) from 30 years of parish ministry in the ELCA and now leads a seminar ministry in connection with his preaching website <http://girardianlectionary.net>.

Congregational Care Committee will meet on Monday, September 25 at 3:00 pm. Please contact Sharon Varkula, Committee Chair, with any questions.

2018 Calendars will be available this year, please place your order on the sign-up sheet in the welcome area. Calendars are available for \$5 each. Please place your order by October 8th.

PLEASE SAVE the DATE for CROP WALK October 8, 2017. Grace Lutheran is hosting this event for Barry County and we need your help to welcome 10-15 churches and up to 300 people. You can sign up to donate food or be a volunteer the day of the event. You can participate as a walker by signing up with Kim Domke or on line <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/hastingsmi>

Donations will be collected Sept 17 – October 8. Checks should be written to CWS-CROP Please see the board in the Gathering Space for more details, or talk with Kim Domke.

Today's Worship Leaders

| | 8:00 am | 10:45 am |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| Assisting Ministers | Chris Bush | Phil Poholski |
| Cantor | Mark Anton | Mark Anton |
| Lector | Chris Bush | Gwen Hansen |
| Communion Server | Jana Bishop | Melissa Patton |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Mark Anton | Grayson Patton |
| Usher | John Burdick Kay Marsh | Dan & Gavin Patton Mark Anton, Joe Longcor |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church | Mark/Jana Bishop | Doug/Diane Neeb Kim Domke, Emma Peck |
| Chancel Team | Wales Family | Ingrid Morgan |

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, October 1, 2017

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Assisting Ministers | Randy Teegardin | Phil Poholski |
| Cantor | Jack Vos | Vickey Argo |
| Lector | John Burdick | Joyce Daugherty |
| Communion Server | Brenda Teegardin | Sandy Mosteller |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Gavin Patton | Emma Peck |
| Usher | Dan & Grayson Patton | Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church | Tom/Cheryl Drumm | Eve Wright Doug/Diane Neeb |
| Chancel Team | Jeanette Ulrich | Mark Kleinbrink |