

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

## **Coming Kingdom**

Jesus' vision of glory is really a humble one. His kingly activity is not concerned with parading around royally, or associating with the powerful or wealthy, or affiliating himself with military might and authority. The pronouncements made from his throne are not ones issued for the sake of protecting his own power. Instead, he is concerned with one question in particular: How do the vulnerable fare?

As we celebrate Christ the King at the ending of another church year, we are challenged to see an expression of political power that is far different from that which makes our governments tick. Jesus welcomes his followers into an alternative way of life, one that puts love of neighbor at the center of our daily actions.

To get a sense of how the vulnerable have fared on our watch, we could look at our budgets, advocacy efforts, social interactions, even our charitable donations. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is an invitation to see one's neighbor with renewed vision. There is an expectation when honoring Jesus' kingship that our attention turns outward, away from ourselves. Similarly, the celebration of the Lord's supper redirects our attention toward Christ and our neighbor.

When we receive the meal, we are not coming forward for a private snack. Instead, we come as people who are shaped by this gift of God. In this gift Christ himself reminds us of the common need we have, and as we partake in the meal we are invited to see it as a central expression of Christ's kingdom. In so doing our idea of neighbor expands and we rehearse an economy that God desires, one where vulnerable people matter. We share this meal with God's family throughout history and around the world. And this is how the kingdom comes.

# Christ the King

November 26, 2016

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Pre-service Music

## Welcome/Worship Instructions

*Stand as you are able.*

## Gathering Music

*How Great is Our God*

See Insert

## Greeting

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity; one God; the only sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

☑ Amen.

## Hymn of Praise

*Now the Feast and Celebration*

ELW 167 (red book)

## Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray . . . O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.

☑ Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve 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:

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

☐ A reading from **Ezekiel**:

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no

longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

▲ The word of the Lord.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 95:1-7



We are the peo-ple of God's pas-ture and the sheep of God's hand.



<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours. ☛**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD | is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. ☛

### Second Reading:

### Ephesians 1:15-23

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

☛ A reading from **Ephesians:**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and

power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** 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:

**Matthew 25:31-46**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

**P** The Gospel according to **Matthew**.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to

those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **Children’s Message/Children’s Church**

### **Message**

*Stand as you are able.*

**Song of the Day**

*Shepherd Me, O God*

**ELW 780** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as you are able.*

### **The Prayers**

☞ Welcoming God’s reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

*A brief silence.*

☞ Almighty God, your merciful rule encompasses all the world. As we gather for worship in safety, we pray for places where the church is persecuted. Watch over your people as they witness to your good news. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our synod companion churches, *St Stephen Lutheran Church in Lansing, Prairieville Community Church*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul Nuechterlein. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon Pastor Ken Scheck, who was recently called for service to Grace. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ Give bountiful pastures, safety, and health to herds, livestock, and all animals. May our care for all of your creation reflect your shepherding love for all that you have made. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ We pray for international organizations that shine your light in places of strife. Lead relief and aid workers, leaders and volunteers to seek the lost and provide safety. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, abused, or ill. Give wisdom to counselors, doctors, nurses, and all in professions that provide healing. Protect those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ Shepherd your churches to welcome the stranger and immigrant in our midst. Call all your people to welcome, clothe, feed, and visit those in need just as you have provided for the lost and

despairing throughout the ages. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, including *Sharon Duits, Tim Lowe, Rick Palmer, Zeus Duits, John Glasgow, Mary Golnek, Laura Miller, Gale Morway, Steve Kaiser, Pastor Joe Benedict, and Henry*. Let us pray,

**☩ Have mercy, O God.**

**Ⓐ** 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.*

**Ⓐ** Let us pray,

**☩ Have mercy, O God.**

**Ⓐ** Give us the hope to which you call us, our glorious inheritance with all your saints. Enrich our lives with the faith and vision of those saints who have died. Let us pray,

**☩ Have mercy, O God.**

**Ⓟ** Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus 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 a Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.*

*Stand as you are able.*

### **Offertory Hymn**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

**ELW 465** (red book)

### **Offertory Prayer**

**Ⓐ** Let us pray . . . Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you.

**☩ As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*President:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with

*President:* you. *Congregation:* Lift up your hearts. We

*President:* 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 whose rule is gentle and whose way is peace, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join 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

☞ Holy God, Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and you fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

☞ **You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He 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.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,

☞ **we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.**

☞ By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

☞ **strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion:

☐ From the beginning Jesus shared meals with his disciples. Breaking bread and sharing the cup are powerful ways we remember that God shares the very stuff of life, and so do we. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. So come to this table, you who have been to this meal often and you who have not been for a long time. Come to this table, it is the Lord who invites you. Come to this table, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who feel you have failed. Come to this table for Jesus, the Christ, invites you to eat with God and meets us here.

### *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, 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.

*Now Behold the Lamb*

ELW 341 (red book)

*Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup*

ELW 492

*Here is Bread*

ELW 483

*Stand as you are able.*

**Prayer after Communion**

**Ⓐ** Let us pray . . . Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come.

**Ⓑ** Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Sit*

**Announcements**

*Stand as you are able*

**Blessing**

**Ⓟ** The love of God surround you; the grace of ✠ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

**Ⓞ** 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*

**ELW 439** (red book)

**Sending**

**A** Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today, November 26**

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

**Monday, November 27**

LACS rehearsal 6:30 – 9:00 pm

**Tuesday, November 28**

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

**Thursday, November 30**

Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm

## Today's Worship Leaders

8:00 am

10:45 am

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|                            |                         |                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assisting Ministers</b> | Chris Bush              | Traci Wales          |
| <b>Cantor</b>              | Jack Vos                | Mark Anton           |
| <b>Lector</b>              | Carol Vos               | Sandy Mosteller      |
| <b>Communion Server</b>    | Jan Schreiner           | Mark Anton           |
| <b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>    | Mark Anton              | Hope Peck            |
| <b>Usher</b>               | John Burdick, Kay Marsh | Mark Anton, Ed Domke |
| <b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>  | Mark/Jana Bishop        | Doug/Diane Neeb      |
| <b>Children's Church</b>   |                         | Eve Wright           |
| <b>Chancel Team</b>        | <b>Deborah Wilke</b>    |                      |

## Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, December 3, 2017

|                            |                      |                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assisting Ministers</b> | Chris Bush           | Vickey Argo      |
| <b>Cantor</b>              | Jack Vos             | Mark Anton       |
| <b>Lector</b>              | Chris Bush           | Kristi Winick    |
| <b>Communion Server</b>    | Melissa Patton       | Diane Neeb       |
| <b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>    | Gavin Patton         | Lance Ogden      |
| <b>Usher</b>               | Dan & Grayson Patton | Doug/Diane Neeb  |
|                            |                      | Gary/Lisa Golnek |
| <b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>  | Jack/Carol Vos       | Eve Wright       |
| <b>Children's Church</b>   |                      |                  |
| <b>Chancel Team</b>        | <b>Lisa Golnek</b>   |                  |

## Stewardship Information

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of saltine crackers, boxed instant mashed potatoes and cake frosting.

Worshippers last week: 85      Weekly Giving: \$3,120.00      Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

**For emergency pastoral care** please contact retired Pastor Mike Kemper at 269-569-1484. For other needs, please contact the church office at 945-9414 or Grace President Chris Bush at 517-614-5546.

**Grace's Outreach Team** invites members to provide food for Christmas baskets for Barry County Cares. See the information posted in the gathering area.

**Wednesday Advent Services - ADVENTure..... A Journey of Hope** "As we walk in times that are not certain, we know that God is with us guiding and directing our days. This Advent you are invited to come on Wednesday nights to experience an adventure, as we explore some of the ways God has given our ancestors hope. Come join us, as we experience our living God who gives each of us hope on our faith journey," Pastor Ken.

*The ADVENTure* begins at 6:00pm with dinner (free will offering), special music beginning each Wednesday at 6:50pm. Holden Evening Prayer Service and children's activities begin at 7:00pm

**December 6** soup and sandwiches ~ piano and vocal offerings

**December 13** lasagna and salad ~ bell choir

**December 20** tacos and taco salad ~ flute ensemble

**American Red Cross** will be holding a blood drive at Grace on Thursday, **December 7** from 1:00 – 6:45 pm. If you are interested in volunteering to pass out snacks/drinks or help with registration/greeting donors, please let Victoria, our Parish Admin, know.

**Holley Trolley** – please join us on the Barry County Holley Trolley on **December 9<sup>th</sup>**, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. We are seeking volunteers to provide cookies, and sing on and off the trolley. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more ways to help this event be a successful outreach ministry.

**Brothers of Grace** - Calling all men 18 years of age and older to come and join us for the annual Brothers of Grace Christmas Dinner Outing at Kloosterman's Sports Bar Tuesday **December 12**, at 6:00 p.m. We are looking for a good turnout, so be sure and sign up on the sign up sheet located in the Gathering Area and try to invite others for a night of good food and fellowship.

**Youth Program - December 17** will be one service at 10:00am. The youth will lead the service with music, Bible verses, hymns, readings, and a drama. Pastor Paul Nuechterlein will preside over the service and distribute communion. A Birthday Party for Jesus celebration will take place immediately following the service.