

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Sharing the Wilderness

Have you ever experienced the disappointment of coming down from a “mountaintop” experience? Away at a camp or retreat you experience something profound, something that feels like it will transform your life forever. But when you return to everyday life you feel surrounded by obstacles to lasting change. Sometimes our baptismal life as Christians can feel like this. In worship, gathered with sisters and brothers in faith, we can experience God’s presence, but then we go back out into our everyday lives and everything becomes more challenging.

Mark’s gospel shows us that even Jesus experienced mountaintops and valleys in his spiritual life. Jesus moves very quickly from splashing in the baptismal waters of the Jordan River and receiving signs and words of divine encouragement into a lonely wilderness where for the next forty days he is tempted and tested. It is with both experiences behind him, the highs and the lows, that Jesus begins his ministry and his bold proclamation that God’s kingdom has come near.

As we gather for the season of Lent, we are reminded that in our own baptisms God’s kingdom has come near. We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Those who gather for worship each week will be a mixed group—some experiencing that strong affirmation, some feeling lost in the wilderness, and others somewhere between. Yet Christ’s proclamation is for all. God’s kingdom has come near. God’s promises hold true for us all no matter what we are feeling any particular week. In worship, we both affirm those around us and receive the gift of their affirmation. We gather both to give and to receive Jesus’ proclamation.

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

Lent is the season of contrition and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of penitence. The music of the season reflects our need for repentance and renewal, which is our effort to turn, again, towards God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

The Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

P Merciful God,

C forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

P Let us confess together.

C We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

P Let us confess together.

C We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

P Let us confess together.

C We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

P Let us confess together.

C For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P People of God, look to the ✠ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

C Amen.

Kyrie

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Last time



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passionate re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

P The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray . . . Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism.

C **May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

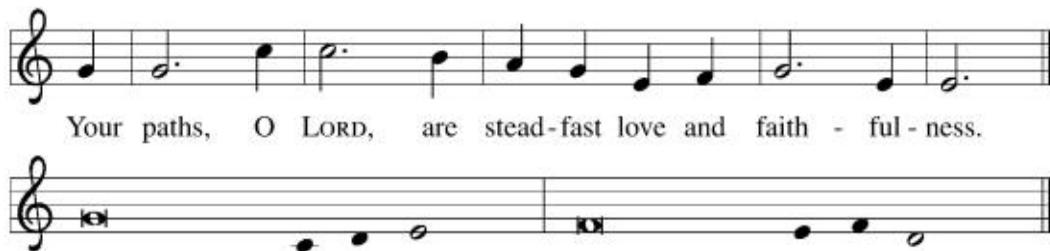
L A reading from **Genesis:**

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. **

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O

LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way. **

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. 

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

A A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

P The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark**.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message/Children's Church

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

Bless now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

Prayers

A Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including Bishops Elizabeth, and Craig, Assistants David, Sarah and Chrysanne; *First Lutheran Church in Muskegon, United Methodist Church in Nashville*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the world. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, including *Jane Secor, Mary Golnek, Steve Kaiser, Shirley Fisher, Corrina Palmer, Gladys Bishop, Audrey Burdick, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow and Newell*. Lord, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. 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 With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. As they receive the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

G **Have mercy, O God.**

☐ Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☑ 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.

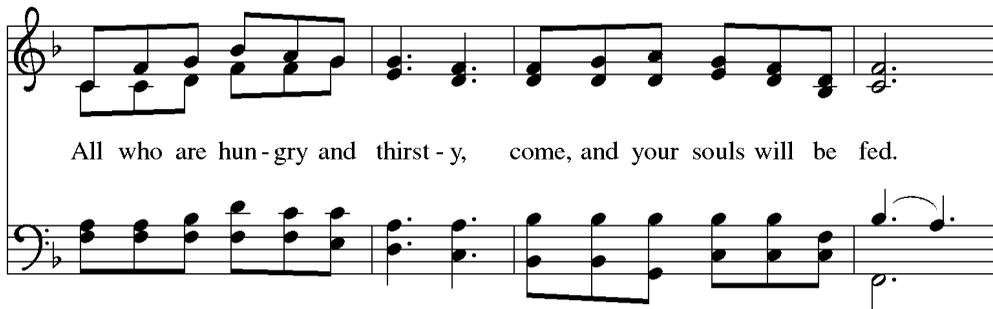
Offering Song

Come to the Table

ELW 481 (red book)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,

C **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God our living Water and our merciful Guide,

C **together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.**

P You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

C **We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

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.

C **Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.**

P Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:

C **wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.**

P Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C **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

P Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

C **Thanks be to 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



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Lead me, Guide me

ELW 768 (red book)

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

Stand

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

G **Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you † peace.

G **Amen.**

Dismissal

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, February 18

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Worship planning 12:30 pm

Tuesday, February 20

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

Council 6:00 pm

Wednesday, February 21

Lenten Supper 6:00 pm

Lenten Service 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 22

Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 24

CPR/First Aid/AED in Fellowship Hall until 3:00 pm

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 74

Weekly Giving: **\$3,113.00**

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of SPAM, juice boxes and sugar. They are VERY low on 64 oz juice bottles, Pasta and Rice A Roni, boxed potatoes--Julienne and scallop; canned navy & kidney beans and canned lasagna.

Wednesday, February 21 –Lenten dinner with breakfast for dinner (pancakes, fruit, turkey sausage/ham), free will offering to go to Grace’s attendees of Area 5 Handbell Festival in West Virginia. Lenten service at 7:00 pm

American Red Cross CPR, AED, First Aid class to be held at Grace Lutheran on the weekend of February 23 and 24. Are you prepared to save a life? Would you like to brush upon your skills? Check the Gathering Space bulletin board for more details, or speak with ARC instructor Kim Domke, (269) 908-0024.

Pasty Sale on March 10. Baked \$7.00 each and Unbaked \$6.00. Sign up sheet for orders is in the coffee area. Helpers needed on March 8, 9 & 10 if you're able and sign up for help is posted as well. Funds from this Pasty sale will be used to support the 10 youth going to Houston to the National Gathering. We already have six of the youth signed up to help during the Pasty sale to "learn the skills" for future years! Please talk with Joe Longcor if you have questions. His phone is 269-623-2348.

Mission Endowment Fund - As you may be aware, Grace Lutheran Church has a Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) and a MEF Committee. The purpose of the MEF is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of our church. The Committee is tasked with discerning where to distribute up to 90% of the earnings of the MEF. Your suggestions are welcomed for directing where these funds may be best used. Please place your suggestion along with your name in Margaret Wood’s mailbox and it will be reviewed by the MEF Committee when it meets.

Renovation Update - Being good stewards of God, there was a decision to go ahead with the purchase of carpet that was needed for the church. The price for the carpet has risen steadily during our fundraising efforts and the church was faced with another price increase in the near future. The original debt amount was \$16,258.38. To date we have received **\$6,875** in generous donations from our members. The remaining debt for the carpet is **\$10,083.38**. We would be blessed if you would be willing to help pay down this debt we owe to ourselves. Thanks for your consideration. If you would like to write a check, please remember to write ‘carpet fund’ in the memo line.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	Jack Vos	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Jack/Carol Vos	<i>Volunteers</i> Doug/Diane Neeb
 Chancel Team	 Chris Bush	 Lisa Golnek

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, February 25, 2018

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Lance Ogden
Usher	John Burdick, Kay Marsh	Mark Anton, Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor Doug/Diane Neeb
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	Lisa Golnek