

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St

Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Worship Committee e-mail: gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

Phone: (269) 945-9414

(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Handling the Truth

At the climax of the movie *A Few Good Men*, Jack Nicholson's character utters the now famous line: "You want the truth? You can't handle the truth." Perhaps the line has become so popular because we all recognize that hiding unpleasant truths is something we all do. Sometimes that takes the form of so-called white lies we tell to protect those we love. But sometimes we avoid the hardest truths in our lives, our families, our businesses, and our congregations because we fear what will happen when everyone stares in the face something we have been avoiding.

In today's gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples by naming his fate out loud: suffering, rejection, and death. These are truths his disciples may have wondered about as opposition to Jesus' ministry mounted, but Peter's reaction shows us that they were not ready to face them head on. In the season of Lent, Jesus' death in Jerusalem always looms on the horizon. For us now, facing Jesus' death is no longer a question for the future. We all know how the story ends. But we still struggle with the truth of a God who chose to reveal God's own nature through servanthood, humiliation, and weakness. We still struggle with the call to pick up our own crosses and name the hard truths about our own lives and failings.

We enter Christian community by first having the truth of a promise made over us. In baptism, God declares faithfulness, grace, and mercy over our lives and deaths. It is with confidence in this truth that we gather together to name hard truths in our lives and our world, knowing that in love God can receive and heal it all. Led by faith in Christ and following in his footsteps, we can handle the truth.

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 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 . . .

C we were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

P Let us confess . . .

C we acted when we knew better.

Silence.

P Let us confess . . .

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

Silence.

P Let us confess . . .

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 . . . O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life.

C Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

L A reading from **Genesis**:

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:23-31



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;**
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever! R

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**
who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!". R

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

A A reading from **Romans**:

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father

of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who be.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **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

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

ELW 808 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

Prayers

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

A brief silence.

🔊 We pray for the church. Make us bold to proclaim your love. Give us courage to carry the cross that confronts us each day and follow Christ. Strengthen pastors, bishops, deacons, and all who minister in your name. 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; *Immanuel Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Welcome Corners United Methodist Church in Hastings*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Lord, in your mercy,

🔊 **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the world. For flowing streams and still waters. For urban parks and wilderness reserves. For pastures and forests. Instill within us a reverence for the earth as your creation and our fragile home. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations. Teach us to honor our common humanity within diversity. Turn enemies into friends. Lead us away from hatred, fear, and misunderstanding. Show our hearts the way to peace and fill us with compassion. 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for those in need. For people whose struggles we fail to acknowledge. For those who leave their homes and families in search of safety or employment. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, including *Janie Schelfer, Mary Golnek, Tim Lowe, Audrey Burdick, John Glasgow, Nancy and Jessica, Betsy Wuebker, Pastor Joe Benedict, Kris Gilbert, Barbara Macaully, Wendy Eifler, Caleb, Shirley Fisher, Barb Benner, the Jasko family, Jamie, Ryan and Kira Coplin and Chad Andress*. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for this assembly. For those who prepare this space for worship. For ministries of fellowship and hospitality. For those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and for all who provide care and support to those who are homebound. Lord, in your mercy,

C **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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us in the faith. Bring them to the fullness of their inheritance in Christ and into the joy of eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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

C **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.



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



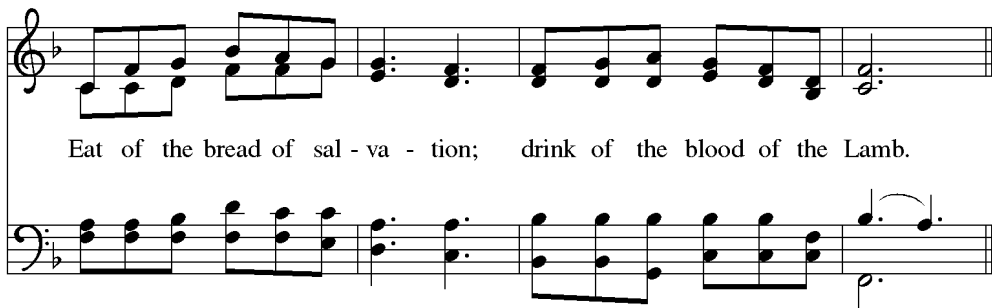
All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



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

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

Ⓢ 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

Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

Ⓢ 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

Ⓐ Holy God our living Water and our merciful Guide,

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

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

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

Ⓐ 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.

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

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

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

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

☞ Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

☞ 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

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

☞ 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. O Lamb of
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.

Now Behold the Lamb

ELW 341 (red book)

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

Stand

Prayer after Communion

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

Ⓑ 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

☞ 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.

☩ Amen.

Dismissal

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

☩ Thanks be to God.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Today, February 25 | Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm |
| Tuesday, February 27 | Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Youth and family committee 6:30 – 8:00 pm |
| Wednesday, February 28 | Lenten Supper 6:00 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm |
| Thursday, March 1 | Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm |

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 98

Weekly Giving: **\$3,918.00**

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.

Lent Devotional Books are available for your edification. We are thankful for the many members who took time to write a reflection for us to ponder.

Coin Boxes are also available for you to pick up and save a quarter for each Lenten day. The box can hold 60 quarters. This money will go toward ELCA World Hunger program.

Wednesday, February 28 –Lenten dinner with pasta, free will offering to go to Family Promise of Barry County. Lenten service at 7:00 pm

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.

Good Friday Cross Walk, March 30, 9:30 AM. Sign-up sheets are posted for: 1.)Walker participants 2.)Volunteers to read parts of the passion story at various reflection stops along the walk 3.)Donations of light refreshments.

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 **\$6,975** in generous donations from our members. The remaining debt for the carpet is **\$9,983.38**. 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 | 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 Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. | Mark/Jana Bishop | Doug/Diane Neeb |
| Children's Church | | Kim & Lydia Markwart |
| Chancel Team | Chris Bush | Lisa Golnek |

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 4, 2018

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Assisting Ministers | Chris Bush | Mark Anton |
| Cantor | Mark Anton | Mark Anton |
| Lector | Chris Bush | Kristi Winick |
| Communion Server | Jan Schreiner | Diane Neeb |
| Acolyte/Crucifer | Grayson Patton | Hope Peck |
| Usher | Dan & Gavin Patton | Gary/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb |
| Greeter/Coffee Hr. | Melissa Patton | Eve Wright |
| Children's Church | | Tom/Cheryl Drumm |
| Chancel Team | Vickey Argo & Kay Howell | |