

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 Light

Since earliest times, human beings have gathered around fires for warmth, food, storytelling, and community. It is a special feeling to find yourself gathered with a group of people around a campfire or even a heater on a subway platform. Such gatherings prompt us to see those around us in new ways. We notice the faces of people we otherwise would have overlooked. We experience something common in our need for light and warmth.

Each week the Holy Spirit gathers the church together in many spaces around the world. We gather in a different kind of light, a spiritual light that shines from God's only Son who has come into the world "in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17). In the remembrance of our baptisms, in song, in scripture readings, in prayer, in the meal around the table, the one who is the light of the world is present among us. Jesus calls us to step out of the darkness in our lives and into his life-giving, healing, and sustaining light.

Gathered around Jesus Christ, we are called to invite others in. The light of Christ is there for all who experience darkness in their lives, who feel out in the cold, hungry, without a story or purpose, cut off from others in any way. Jesus' light crowds us in together. Then, sent out by Jesus Christ into our lives, we are called to bring that light with us. Wherever we go, we can show interest in others, listen to them, and seek ways to care for them. We lift up the light we experience each week in community with one another for someone else to see.

Forth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 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

Crusader's Hymn by JC Dare
Jubilee by CK Sherman

Clapper Kids
Grace Notes

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

The Confession and Forgiveness

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

☞ **Amen.**

☞ 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.

☞ **Amen.**

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

☞ Merciful God,

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

Silence.

☞ Let us confess . . .

☞ **we were silent when we should have said something.**

Silence.

☞ Let us confess . . .

☞ **we acted when we knew better.**

Silence.

☞ Let us confess . . .

☞ **we were still when we know we should have moved.**

Silence.

☞ Let us confess . . .

☞ **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.**

☞ 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!

☐ Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660 (red book)

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;
passioned 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.

☐ 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.

☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray . . . O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death.

☑ **Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Special Music

Grand Celebration *by Hakes*

Grace Notes

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

☐ A reading from **Numbers:**

¹⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107




¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en - | dures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.


¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress. **

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy. 

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

A A reading from **Ephesians**:

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the

world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 666 (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. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. 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; *Samuel Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. 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 who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, including *Mary Golnek, Tim Lowe, Audrey Burdick, John Glasgow, Mary Rider, Jane Secor, Fred Kogge, Steve Kaiser, and Doris & Vern Allerdig*. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. 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 With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal 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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *arr McChesney* **Clapper Kids**

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

After the usher passes your pew, you are invited to drop your coins in the metal bowl at the front of the nave. These gifts are sent to Barry County Cares.

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.)

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.
 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.

Amazing Grace

ELW 779 (red book)

I Received the Living God

ELW 477

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

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, March 11

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Noisy Offering

Flute Friends 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Youth Groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Monday, March 12

Outreach Committee 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 13

Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm

Brothers of Grace 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 7

Lenten Supper 6:00 pm

Lenten Service 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 8

Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	John Burdick	Carla Neil
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Volunteers	Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Tom, Hope, Emma Peck
Chancel Team	Vickey Argo & Kay Howell	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 18, 2018

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Carol Vos	Carol Morgan
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Vickey Argo
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Emma Peck
Usher	John Burdick, Kay Marsh	Mark Anton, Sandy Mosteller Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark & Jana Bishop	Volunteers
Children's Church		Kim Domke

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 91

Weekly Giving: **\$4,861.00**

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of Pasta and Rice A-Roni, white sugar, chicken based soups (not chicken noodle), beef based soups (not beef vegetable), coffee (not huge cans), 64 oz juice (not apple), juice packs, pasta (not spaghetti), and canned pineapple.

Welcome to the Bell Choir ringers, who are playing for us today.

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.

Women's Bible Study Time Changes: on March 13th we will meet at 2pm. We will resume our normal 12:30 meeting time on March 20th.

Wednesday, March 14 –Lenten dinner with french toast and breakfast meat, free will offering to go to Social Activities. Lenten service at 7:00 pm

Adult Bible Study – March 18th beginning at 9:30 am, there is a study entitled Making Sense of the Cross. Copies of the book used on the study will be available. We will meet in the Conference Room.

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.

Easter Plant Sale- please be sure to sign up for your Easter plants today. Your purchase may help in three ways: decorating your house/Grace for Easter, sending kids to Houston, a gift to seniors at Commission on Aging.

Shut-in cards – if you would like to help send messages of love and caring to our shut ins and members in nursing homes, please see the sign up sheet taped to the end of the mailboxes.

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 \$7,600 in generous donations from our members. The remaining debt for the carpet is **\$9,258.38. 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.