

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Held in God's Embrace

What does it look like to abide? Abiding means remaining, staying, dwelling. Abiding might look like living in the same community for decades and being deeply rooted in its common life and mission. It could look like a long friendship or marriage in which two people continue to walk together through all that comes in life. It may look like the strong and enduring love a parent has for a child. What does abiding look like to you?

Today as you hear Jesus' words, "abide in my love," consider that image of a parent's love for a child. In the gospel Jesus refers to God as "Father," and today's reading from 1 John uses parental language to speak about Jesus' and our relationship with God. Imagine God as a father stretching out his arms to us, or a mother welcoming us into her embrace. "Climb on in. Abide here. Let my love surround you on all sides. Let it nourish you and warm you. Let your heart beat right alongside mine."

This is indeed what God says to us in baptism. Baptism is the moment when we are born of God, and so it is only natural that this God's arms should scoop us up, giving us a place to dwell, to abide, forever.

If this description of abiding feels too passive for those who are called in baptism to bear "God's creative and redeeming word to all the world" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231), consider this: if you are tucked into God's embrace, you are not going to live a stationary life. You will go where God goes, to the people God serves, to the banged up and brokenhearted. You will move as God moves and go where God goes.

You have been born anew. Now nestle into God's embrace.

6th Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2018

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. It's because of his death and resurrection that we are assured of forgiveness from our sins, and everlasting life with God. The liturgical colors are white, a color of triumph and glory, and gold, a color of joy.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Easter Proclamation and Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

P Holy people of God, given new life through the gospel of Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Gathering Music

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine

WOV 780 (blue book)

Responsive Litany of Easter Praise

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A This is the day that the Lord has made;

C **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

P The Lord is my strength and my song.

C **The Lord has become my salvation.**

A Open to me the gates of righteousness;

C **I will go through them and praise the Lord.**

P I shall not die, but live,

C **and declare the works of the Lord.**

A This is the day that the Lord has made;

C **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
 When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.

☑ **Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

☞ A reading from **Acts**:

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98



- ¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- ²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- ³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- ⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. **
- ⁵Sing to the LORD| with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- ⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**
- ⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- ⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**
- ⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity. 

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

A reading from **1 John:**

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

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

☛ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

☞ The Resurrection 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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

WOV 754 (blue book)

Dedication of Prayer Books for the Armed Services

☞ Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

☛ **You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.**

☛ We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving

☛ **for the many blessings you have given us.**

☞ Renew in us the commitment to use our money in the service of others,

☛ **as we have given to these Prayer Books to sustain our women and men who serve the Armed Services of the United States of America.**

☛ Bless these prayer books.

☛ **May those who receive them be nourished and strengthened by the words that speak of your everlasting life,**

☞ and may these books be a sign of your love to all people.

☞ **To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. Amen.**

Nicene Creed

☞ We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

☞ **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☞ Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

☞ Holy God, your voice calls us to worship. Where discord bellows within the church, unite us in harmony. Where we lack direction, guide us in singing your song with our unique voices. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plainwell, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord, in your mercy,

☞ **(sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

☞ Creative Lord, your melodies formed the earth and all that is in it. Receive the roar of the sea and the rhythmic clap of the rivers. Rejoice as the hills ring out in praise. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ **(sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

☞ Holy One, you hear all our moans and groans. Where lament and the blues resound, send us to listen. Send us to comfort. Send us to build relationships rooted in your justice and peace. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson, Alexi and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and*

Aaron Endsley and Tyler Van Houten. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓐ Serenade the estranged and all who suffer alone. Accompany high-functioning addicts and the frightened who have no one to turn to. Give rest to overworked caregivers and people living with schizophrenia. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓐ Eternal Song, you call us to share our gifts for your glory. We thank you and praise you for our musicians and vocalists, choir directors and hymnwriters. Bless all who lead and all who sing in worship. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, including *Hope Palmer-Weston, Zeus Duites, Wendy Eifler, Bill Haddix, Mary Golnek, Tristin, Audrey Burdick, John Glasgow and Gladys Bishop.* Lord, in your mercy,

☞ (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓐ 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.

Ⓐ Lord, in your mercy,

☞ (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓐ Your goodness echoes through all time with the songs of the saints. Thank you for all the disciples who have mentored us through their gift of music. Keep your song within us this day and always. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ (sung) Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓟ We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus 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.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

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

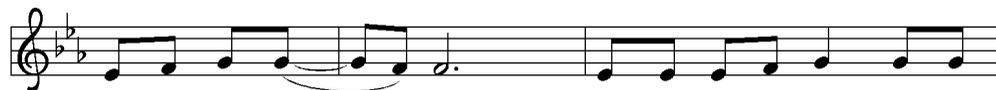
Stand as you are able.

Offering Song*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 185 (red book)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



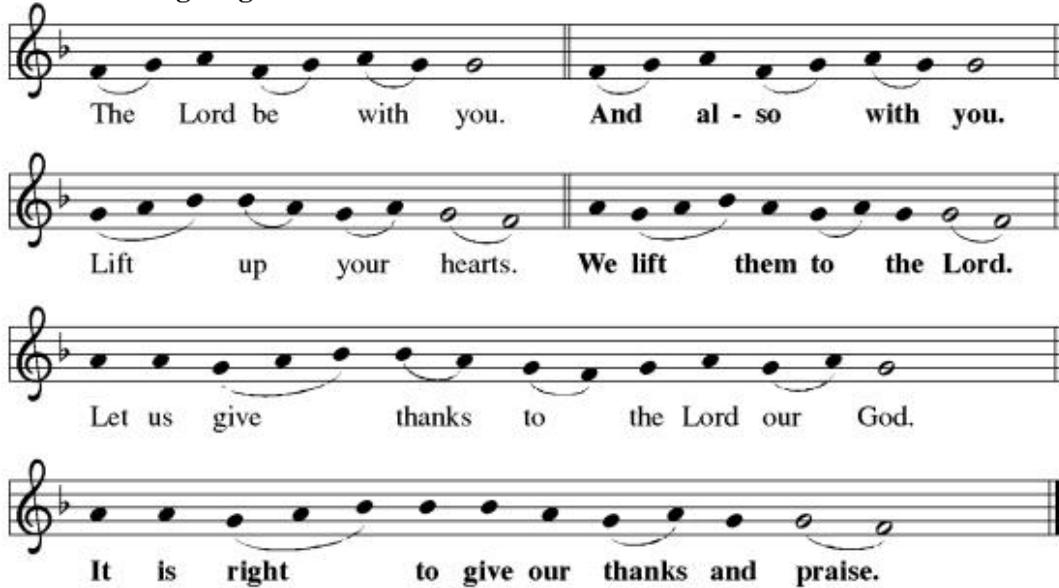
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples.

C Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

- ☐ Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
- ☑ **We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery.**
- ☐ We give you thanks for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer.
- ☑ **We praise you for Christ, who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.**
- ☐ 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-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.**
- ☐ Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
- ☑ **To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☐ Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven.

☑ **Hallelujah!**

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 Now be-hold the Lamb, the pre-cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho-ly is the Lamb, the pre-cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre-cious Lamb of God. Be-



bore all my sin, that I may live a-gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev-er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin-ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Blessed Assurance

WOV 699 (blue book)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

WOV 765

I Received the Living God

WOV 700

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
- C** **Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

- P** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW 678 (red book)

Dismissal

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- A** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 88 Weekly Giving: **\$3,095.00** Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of chicken or beef based soups, chowders, cream soups (NOT cream of mushroom, tomato or chicken noodle); Spam, corned beef hash, Pasta or Rice A Roni (not chicken or beef flavored), sugar, brownie mix, cereal, mashed potatoes, coffee – instant or ground (smaller cans are best), baked beans, refried beans and mixed vegetables.

ELCA Military Personnel Prayer Book - Stop by the display table in the coffee fellowship area to learn how you can send a Lutheran Military Prayer Book to someone serving in the armed forces and/or write a note of support and gratitude to be included in one of the prayer books we will be sending out. Suggested donation for each prayer book is \$8-10 to cover purchase and mailing costs. If you'd like to bake some cookies for service personnel there is a place to sign-up for that also. Thanks for your support. Grace Outreach Committee

Youth Fundraiser – taking place at Mexican Connexion, 131 S Jefferson St, Hastings, on Tuesday, **May 15**, from 4:00 -8:30 pm. 15% of all sales during that time will go to help the Grace Youth who are going to Houston.

Hastings Food Pantry - May 12th is the Stamp Out Hunger food drive. If you would like to participate, place a bag of non-perishable groceries out by your mailbox on Saturday, May 12 and your postal carrier will pick it up and deliver it to the Hastings Food Pantry.

Family Promise – will be holding a Community Meeting at Green Street Church on Tuesday, **May 15** at 6:30 pm, to provide an update regarding their progress. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Vickey Argo.

Vacation Bible School - We have chosen the curriculum for our Vacation Bible School program this year. We are using Group's Shipwrecked. Through this program we will witness how we are rescued by Jesus. Grace Church is thankful to the generous spirit of a member who paid for the initial materials that were ordered. Our Vacation Bible School at Grace will be during the evenings of the **week of July 22, 2018**. Please pray for this ministry we share in Jesus' name with children, youth and adults as an outreach to our community. We hope that you are willing to help in making VBS a time of learning and growing in God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please talk to Pastor Ken.

Renovation Update The original debt amount for the purchase of new carpet was \$16,258.38. To date we have received \$7,775.00 in generous donations from our members. The remaining debt for the carpet is **\$8,483.38**. **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	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carol Vos	Jeanette Markwart
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Joe Longcor, Sandy Mosteller Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Kristi Winick/Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Kim & Lydia Markwart
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead & Jan Schreiner	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 13, 2018

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Pastor Ken	Mark Anton
Lector	Jack Vos	Carol Morgan
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Emma Peck
Usher	Dan & Gavin Patton	Gray/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Melissa Patton	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Children's Church		Tom/Cheryl Drumm
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead & Jan Schreiner	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, May 6	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Tuesday, May 8	Women of Faith 1:30 pm @ Mary R's Brothers of Grace fish fry
Thursday, May 10	Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm