

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
September 9, 2018

Jesus Said What?

We like to believe we are insiders when it comes to knowing Jesus. We self-identify as Christians. We go to church, have Bibles in our homes, and maybe wear crosses around our necks. If any Bible story could cause us to question our judgment about following Jesus, today's gospel is it. Scholars and preachers have tried to soften the word—dog—that Jesus chose to refer to the Syrophoenician woman's daughter, but Jesus didn't choose a soft word. He didn't wink as he said it or intend for it to be heard as a pet name. The word he chose wasn't any nicer than it is now.

We like to believe that, as insiders, knowing Jesus means we are like Jesus and that calling ourselves Christians means that, ultimately, we are good, righteous, deserving people.

If any story about Jesus could cause us to challenge and scrutinize our own behavior, question our own sense of what is acceptable, and make us rethink our entitlements—today's gospel is it. Jesus doesn't act like Jesus when he calls people derogatory names, treats them as outsiders, or denies them help—and neither do we.

After Jesus tells the Syrophoenician woman that the demon is gone from her daughter, he encounters a man with a hearing problem and a speech impediment. Coincidence? Not in Mark's gospel. As Jesus heals the man, he uses the word *Ephphatha*, which means "Be opened." If Mark hadn't just told us about the Syrophoenician woman, the only things being opened here would be the man's ears and tongue. But Mark included her story to show Jesus incorporating her into his own story. Because Jesus acts like Jesus when he's open to those on the outside—and so do we.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved

BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 9, 2018

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

ELW 504 (red book)

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

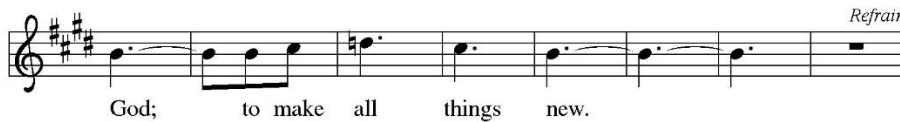
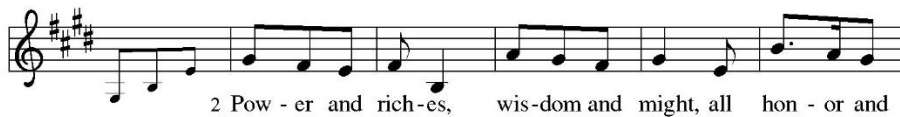
- ☐ The Holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love, be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



Prayer of the Day

▣ Let us Pray... Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.

▣ **Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

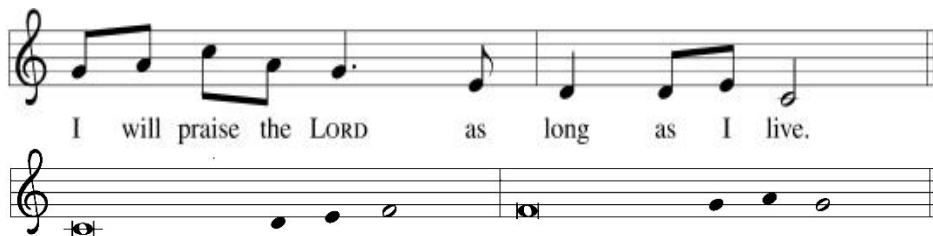
These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

▣ A reading from **Isaiah**:

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

▣ The word of the Lord.

▣ **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 146:

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

and in that day | their thoughts perish. ☒

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**

who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**

the LORD | loves the righteous. ☒

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! ☒

Second Reading

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

☐ A reading from **James**:

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who

love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-27

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

WOV 715 (blue book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayer

☐ Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s beloved creation.

A brief silence.

☐ Gracious God, you call your church to proclaim the love of Christ to a needy world. Embolden us to be your risen body by welcoming strangers and serving our neighbors. Guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops*

Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Roseanne; our synod companion churches Peace Lutheran Church of South Haven, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Middleville, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Creative God, small sprouts and tall trees proclaim your majesty. Give us clear eyes to see nature's beauty and wise minds to protect our home, this earth, from misuse and harm. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Sovereign God, you draw order from chaos. Watch over the nations of the world. Bless citizens and leaders who strive toward the beloved community for which you long. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including, *Parker Stancil (grandson of Freedlunds), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, and Austin and Aaron Endsley (nieces/nephews of Burdicks)*. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Loving God, you give us all that we need. When your children suffer from hunger, poverty, loneliness, persecution, injury, or illness, send generous helpers and companions. We pray especially for Jeanette Ulrich, Karl & Mary Golnek, Larry Hansen, Newell, Sara, Sue, Wes & Opal Gillons, and Olivia Marie. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A Welcoming God, you set a table for us. Embolden this congregation to seek new ways of inviting others to the feast of all creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

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 Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

A You bless us with throngs of saints who witness to your compassion. With gratitude, we recall the lives and deeds of those who proclaim lovingkindness to a needy world (*including Peter Claver, priest and missionary*). Hear us, O God.

C Your love is everlasting.

P Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G **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.

Offertory

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

G **You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer and Acclamation

☩ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

☩ **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**

☩ 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink this cup we proclaim Christ Jesus.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

Congregation:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

☐ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.



A - men, Come Lord Je - sus; A -



men, Come Lord Je - sus.

☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.



A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A -



men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it.

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

☑ Amen

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u-ni-ty of the Spir-it all glo-ry and hon-or is
yours, O God, now and for-ev-er,
A - - - men.

Lord's Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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

☐ Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

☑ **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.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us.

Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear:

You are the way of justice and peace:

You are the way of mercy and love:

You are the bread of life for us all:

You pour your Holy Spirit on us:

Final time:



Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

G Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

P God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G 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. In the weeks to come this will end and be replaced during Children's Time.

Sending Song

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

WOV 754

Dismissal

A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

G Thanks be to God.

	Week at a Glance
Sunday, September 9	Rally Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am
Monday, September 10	Outreach 4:30 pm LACS Rehearsal 6:15 – 9:30 pm
Tuesday, September 11	Women of Faith (Mallard Pond) 1:30 pm
Thursday, September 13	Bells Workshop 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Friday, September 14	Soffit Work 10:00 am
Saturday, September 15	Soffit Work 10:00 am

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Pastor Ken	Kate Watson
Lector	Chris Bush	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Phyliss Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	John Burdick & Diane Neeb	Joe Longcor & Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Volunteers Eve Wright
Table Guild –	Wales Family	
Bread Maker –	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 16, 2018

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Tracy Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
Usher	Mark & Jana Bishop	Mark Anton & Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr. Children's Church	Volunteers	John & Mary Kleinbrink Eve Wright
Table Guild –	Wales Family	
Bread Maker –	Laura Scheck	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 71 Weekly Giving: \$5,072.00 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

Adult Forum will meet at 9:30 a.m. Today, we hear some of Jesus' sermons. Next week Jesus challenges our piety and prayer.

TODAY IS RALLY DAY! At 10 am, Eve Wright invites youth, parents and anyone interested to come learn about the Church School program. Church School is during 10:45 worship.

The Property Committee needs volunteers to help with soffit repair around our church building. Work begins this Friday (10am) and continues Saturday (10am). Please contact Phil Poholski at (269) 948-4113 to let him know that you are willing to help.

Calling all teachers! The Sunday Church School teachers gather on September 19th at 6:00pm.

Family Promise Brunch on Sunday, September 30, between services at 9:15 am. Mark your calendars to attend. If you are willing to help in bringing food, please sign up on the bulletin board. A free-will offering will be received for Family Promise.

Handbell Choir is seeking more ringers! You are invited to come give ringing a try without any commitment until after that evening. Come on Thursday, September 13, from 5:30 – 8 pm for dinner, fellowship, and ringing. (Dinner is provided)

Carpet Debt Update. We have a debt of **\$7,073.38**. If every baptized member gave \$50.00 the debt would be gone. Please prayerfully consider giving a gift beyond your normal giving to Grace and designate as "Carpet Fund".

Brothers of Grace Retreat on September 29th at the home of Joe Longcor (7521 Herman Dr, Delton). Doug Neeb will be leading us in a discussion about how far we are willing to go to be closer to God. Arrive 8 am and wrap up at 11:30. For more details, contact Joe at 616-430-1225 or email him joelongcor@mei.net.

Fifth Sundays. The Lord says, *Plow new ground for yourselves, plant righteousness, and reap the blessings that your devotion to me will produce.* Hosea 10:12 Grace Lutheran Church continues to prepare ways to allow God to work in us. One way is by keeping our worship schedule at 8:00 and 10:45 for most Sundays.

Lakewood Area Choral Society will present a concert of sacred music at 3 pm on Sunday, September 23rd at Hastings Church of the Nazarene. Singers from Grace include Jack & Carol Vos, Linda Melcher, Cindy Olson and Joe Varkula. Come and enjoy a great concert!