

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
November 11, 2018

## Why This Widow?

Being exhorted to give money to religious institutions—especially large religious ones—is an experience shared by many faithful people. And yes, those with means are often reasonably tasked with the responsibility for making sure salaries are paid, building repairs are made, and a community has what it needs. But it is upsetting to think how the message of Give! Give! Give! would have affected someone like the widow in today’s gospel story. It just feels wrong. Her gift of two copper coins is striking for its testimony to both her devotion and her material desperation.

Jesus doesn’t glorify this widow’s poverty, and neither should we. But in praising her material sacrifice, Jesus shows us that the best teachers and exemplars of the faith are often people such as she, who give themselves fully to God despite crushing hardship. For having no choice but to utterly depend upon the Lord our God, the “least of these” may dwell in the wisdom of the cross in a way that those who are materially comfortable perhaps cannot.

Of course, even those who can write large checks to church capital campaigns know suffering and helplessness in the face of circumstances beyond their individual control. Serious illness, untimely deaths, accidents, betrayals, and random events all happen indiscriminately in this life. For followers of Jesus, confidence, power, and joy in spite of hardship comes from a deep dependence upon God that seeps into and permeates their lives. Be encouraged and strengthened by this widow’s example today. Even more, be encouraged and strengthened by Jesus’ compassion and love for her and for you.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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### 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.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

November 11, 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 Hymn

*As Saints of Old*

ELW 695 (red book)

### Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

**P** The grace of eternal God, the holy and living One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**A** Blessed be God,

**C** **and blessed be the kingdom, now and forever.**

**P** There is one Body and one Spirit;

**C** **there is one hope in God's call to us;**

**A** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

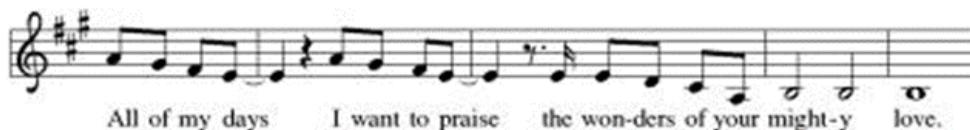
**C** **One God of all.**

**P** Blessed be God who sustains and protects the Holy Church.

**C** **Blessed be God who guides and confirms us in faith. Amen. Alleluia!**

### Hymn of Praise

*Shout to the Lord*





My com-fort, my shel-ter, tow-er of ref - uge and strength;  
 let ev-'ry breath, all that I am nev-er cease to wor-ship you.  
 Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow-er and maj - es-ty, praise  
 to the King. Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar at the  
 sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
 for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.  
 Noth-ing com-pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

### Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray, O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy.
- Ⓑ Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

*Sit*

## First Reading

## I Kings 17:8-16

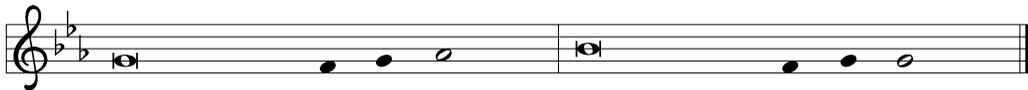
*This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.*

📖 A reading from **I Kings**:

<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

📖 Lord God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,

🎵 **we give you thanks and praise.**



## Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

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

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

**and in that day | their thoughts perish. 🎵**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;  
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;  
the LORD | loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall | reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! ☩**

## Second Reading

## Hebrews 9:24-28

*The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.*

☩ A reading from **Hebrews:**

<sup>24</sup>Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup>Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup>for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

☩ Lord God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,

☩ **we give you thanks and praise.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,  
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it  
true hu - mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our  
of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness -  
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty.  
dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your ma -  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of power that can  
faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



glo - ry.  
un - be - lief.  
glo - ry.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 12:38-44

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

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

☛ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

☞ 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*

**Hymn of the Day**

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

**ELW 679**

*Kneel or sit as able.*

## Prayers

☛ With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

☛ O God, preserve your church from empty piety. Stir up our will to act with mercy and compassion. Keep our bishops, pastors, teachers, and all who proclaim your good news strong in faith. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death, and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, St. Peter Lutheran Church in Unionville, Middleville United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Giver of Peace,

☛ **hear our prayer.**

**A** Provide all living things with sufficient food and clean water. Make us ever mindful of the farmers and laborers who supply us with food and open our hands to share what we have received. Giver of Peace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Awaken our nation to care for veterans and others who have experienced the stress and trauma of war or other military conflicts. Inspire us to promote the well-being of those who have put themselves in the service of other. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Zack Green (son-in-law of Sandy & Matt Mikolajczyk), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks) and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls)*. Giver of Peace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Bow down to meet those who are trampled. Greet them with mercy and give new life to those who feel overwhelmed or broken by discrimination, grief, or illness. We pray especially for *Mary Jane Hayner, Delmer and Larry Hansen, Cameron Haddix, Ellie Clark, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Vicky Dame, Kim Vanderveen, Steadman home, Kalie Triick, Wes & Opal Gillons, Sue Walker, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow, Colleen Endsley, Wendy Eifler, Valeria Poholski, and Dee DeField*. Giver of Peace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Bless the ministries in our community that reach out to people who are unnoticed or neglected. Give us a common vision of justice that eliminates hunger, greed, and self-righteousness. Giver of Peace,

**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** Giver of Peace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Bind us together with the saints of every time and place (*especially Martin, bishop of Tours, and Søren Kierkegaard*) until we join them around your throne. Giver of Peace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## 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.

*\*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.

### We Are An Offering



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## Offering Prayer

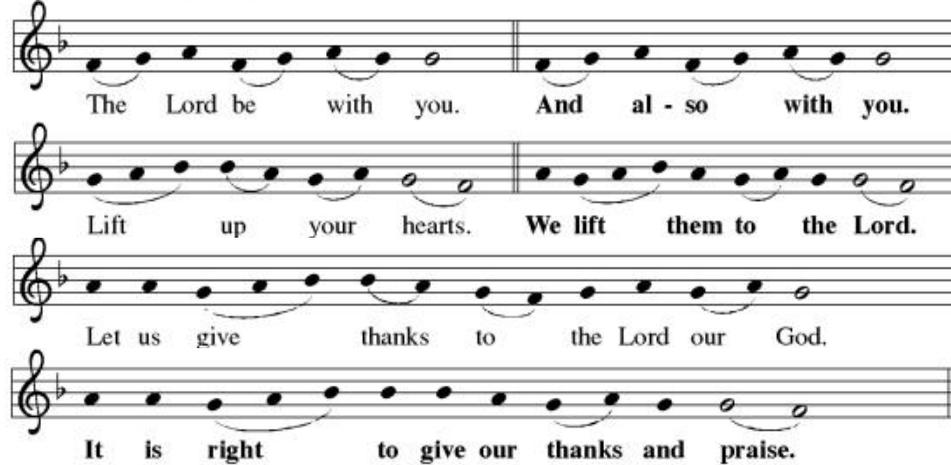
- A** Let us pray . . . God of every generation, we offer you our songs of praise and thanksgiving.  
**C** **We bring you these tokens of our talents and our lives. Help us to use our gifts so that justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen**

## 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



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.

**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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 - er, God of might;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord;  
Bles-sed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

☞ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

☞ **You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☞ Remembering, therefore, Christ's life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

☞ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**

☞ By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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

## **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**

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

### *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.



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.

*Day by Day*

ELW 790

*Blessed Assurance*

ELW 638

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

ELW 712

### **Prayer after Communion**

- Ⓐ O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.
- Ⓑ By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be Christ's body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Congregational announcements

*Stand*

### Blessing

☞ God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you all, now and always.

☞ **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**

*Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand*

**ELW 441**

### Dismissal

☞ Surrounded by God's people of every time and place, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

### Week at a Glance

<b>Sunday, November 11th</b>	Services at 8:00 am and 10:45 am Committee training 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am Noisy Offering both services Family Promise Dinner/ Auction 4 pm
<b>Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Outreach 4:30 pm
<b>Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup></b>	BOG 7 pm Women of Faith (Mallard Pond) 1:30 pm
<b>Thursday, November 15th</b>	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:45 pm

### Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
<b>Cantor</b>	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	Chris Bush	Emma Peck
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
<b>Usher</b>	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Doug & Diane Neeb
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	John & Mary Kleinbrink
<b>Children's Church</b>		Shayna Gibbons
<b>Table Guild</b>	Deb Wilke	
<b>Bread Maker</b>	Jeanette Markwart	

### Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, November 18, 2018

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Pastor Ken	Kate Watson
<b>Lector</b>	Jack Vos	Jeanette Markwart
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jana Bishop	Phyllis Lietz
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Volunteer	Clyde Watson
<b>Usher</b>	Mark & Jana Bishop	Ed & Luke Domke
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Mark & Jana Bishop	Deb Wilke
<b>Children's Church</b>		Tom Peck and girls
<b>Bread Maker</b>	Jeanette Markwart	

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 96 Weekly Giving: \$6,733.31 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

**Adult Forum:** This week Adult Forum will not meet, as council and committee chairs meet for a training event during the 9:30 hour.

**Noisy Offering** benefiting Barry County Cares will be received during worship this morning.

**God's Creation Calendars** are in. If you ordered, please find yours with your name on it, on the table in the fellowship area. There are a few extras still available...for \$5 each.

**Hastings Area Community Thanksgiving Worship Service** will be held here at Grace Lutheran Church next Sunday at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome! Come give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Family Promise of Barry County:** The 2nd Annual Dinner / Silent Auction will be held today at Hope United Methodist Church located at the junction of M-79 / M-37 just south of Hastings. To honor our veterans, they will be invited to eat free! Doors will open at 4:00 pm and Family Promise of Barry County hopes to see you there to support this valuable program.

**Prayer List:** If you request prayers for someone on the weekly Participation Card, please inform the office if their status changes. We want to stay updated!

**Cards for Homebound:** Please sign up for sending cards out to our homebound on the sheet hanging on the side of the mailboxes.

**Advent Services** *Journey into the LIGHT* on three Wednesdays. Wednesday nights of December 5, 12 and 19 we gather for a meal and worship. The meal begins at 6:00 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm. If you cannot make the meal, please join us for worship.

**Holly Trolley** December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm on the Court House Lawn. We will have Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, carols and fellowship! We hope that you can come and join in the festivities as we share the love of Jesus in this special way.