

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414

(269) 945-2645

Fax: (269) 945-2698

Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

E-mail: [gracehastingspastor@gmail.com](mailto:gracehastingspastor@gmail.com)

## Ready, Set, Live!

This is a time to get ready. For most students and teachers, administrators and support staff, the start of school is just around the corner. At church, things are probably gearing up again as well—Sunday school and confirmation, Bible studies, choir, and other ministries that may have taken a summer break are beginning to stir once again.

Being organized and ready with supplies, lesson plans, and meeting schedules is important. But Jesus reminds us in the gospel today that we also must be ready for something even more important—him!

We confess in the creeds that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. We do not know when that will be. But we *do* know when and where to expect Jesus in these closing days of summer and our whole life through: in the words of scripture, in the water of baptism, in bread and wine. Where else? In hugs from a friend, in a kind word from a stranger, in the cup of coffee lovingly served, or in the delighted squeals of children chasing fireflies. The care, love, and joy of Christ are seen in all these moments.

We are called to get ready. But how can we prepare to meet this Jesus who promises that he will one day come again? How can we be ready to meet this Jesus who shows up unexpectedly in the everyday moments of our lives? Perhaps by simply living the lives that have been given to us. By loving our neighbors and allowing them to love us. By tending to the spiritual habits of prayer, devotion, and service. This is the work of being “dressed for action” and having our “lamps lit,” and will prepare us to receive the treasure God offers today and every day, the treasure that “no thief comes near and no moth destroys” (Luke 12:33).

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23413.

### BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has one side to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

# 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2016

*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

## Morning Has Broken

ELW 556 (red book)

## Greeting

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.

☞ **Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*

## First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

☞ A reading from **Genesis**:

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: 33-12-22

## Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

### 📖 A reading from **Hebrews**:

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

🗨 The word of the Lord.

### 🙏 Thanks be to God.

*Stand as you are able.*

### *Sanctuary*

**CCLI**

Lord prepare me  
To be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy  
Tried and true  
With thanksgiving  
I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You

## Gospel Reading: Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

📖 The Gospel according to **Luke**.

### 🙏 Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where

your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### **Children’s Message**

*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**

*Stand as you are able.*

**Song of the Day**

*This Little Light of Mine*

**ELW 677** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as you are able.*

### **The Prayers**

☐ Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

☐ Faithful God, encourage your church in new ventures of faith: new congregations, ministries, conversations, and partnerships. Accompany the leadership of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches throughout the world, St John’s Lutheran Church in Three Rivers, Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Creating God, the abundance of your creation fills us with awe and delight. Call us daily to be vigilant and responsible stewards of all you have made. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Merciful God, calm the fears that produce wars, prejudice, and injustice. Equip governments, leaders, and peacemakers to be models of cooperation and reconciliation among the nations. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Restoring God, comfort all who long for relief from circumstances of grief or sickness (*especially*). Bless hospitals, mental health facilities, and all places of healing. We pray especially for *Carol Vos, Sue Steeby, Butch Tossava, George Ulrich Jr, Deb Wood, Ethyl Simon and Joe Rathbauer*. Hear us, O God.

**☞ Your mercy is great.**

**▲** Steadfast God, we pray for those in life transitions that bring anxiety. Heal those hurt by broken promises, and sustain them with your never-ending love. Hear us, O God.

**☞ Your mercy is great.**

**▲** Gracious God, hear the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**▲** Hear us, O God.

**☞ Your mercy is great.**

**▲** Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all the saints who now enjoy unending treasure in heaven, and we rejoice that we are united with them in your love. Hear us, O God.

**☞ Your mercy is great.**

**☐** We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**☞ Amen.**

*Stand as you are able.*

**Sharing the Peace**

**☐** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**☞ And also with you.**

*(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)*

*Sit*

**Offering of Gifts & 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 Prayer**

**▲** Let us pray . . . God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.

**☞ Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**☐** The Lord be with you.

**☞ And also 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 God thanks and praise.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

℣ Blessed are you, Holy God, the First and Last, life's Beginning and its End. You called us to live as your people and promised to be our God. When time and again we failed to trust your promise and refused to walk in your ways,

☩ **you sent your Word made flesh, the root and offspring of David, to dwell among us and draw us back to you.**

℣ 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."

☩ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

℣ 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."

☩ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

℣ Send now your Holy Spirit upon these gifts and all who share this meal. By your Spirit wipe away all tears and mend with mercy what sin has torn apart.

☩ **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

℣ We await Christ's coming with glad and joyful hearts.

☩ **And we long to feast forever at the Supper of the Lamb. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

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

☩ **Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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

℣ Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast of the Lord.

### *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.

*Let us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471 (red book)

*What Feast of Love*

ELW 487

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

ELW 857

*Stand as you are able.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

☩ Let us pray . . . O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

☩ **Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Announcements**

*Stand as you are able*

### **Blessing**

☩ 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.**

*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 Hymn**

### *Lord of the Dance*

CCLI

- 1) I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
I danced in the Moon & the Stars & the Sun  
I came down from Heaven & I danced on Earth  
At Bethlehem I had my birth:

**Refrain:** Dance then, wherever you may be  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!  
(...lead you all in the Dance, said He!)

- 2) I danced for the scribe & the pharisee  
But they would not dance & they wouldn't follow me  
I danced for fishermen, for James & John  
They came with me & the Dance went on:

### **Refrain**

- 3) I danced on the Sabbath & I cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame!  
They whipped & they stripped & they hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die!

**Refrain**

- 4) I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back  
They buried my body & they thought I'd gone  
But I am the Dance & I still go on!

**Refrain**

- 5) They cut me down and I leapt up high  
I am the Life that'll never, never die!  
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He!

**Refrain**

*Words by Sydney Carter, copyright 1963 Galliard Ltd.  
Church Copyright License® # 11233434*

**Sending**

**A** Alleluia. Proclaim the good news.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*We depart for study, service and fellowship.*

## Today's Worship Leaders

8:00 am

10:00am

---

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>		Lorie Gladyness
<b>Cantor</b>		Vickey Argo
<b>Lector</b>		Jack Vos
<b>Communion Server</b>		Jana Bishop
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>		Emmalee Peck
<b>Ushers</b>		Mark/Jana Bishop Tom/Cheryl Drumm
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>		Eve Wright
<b>Nursery</b>		Volunteers needed
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Chris Bush	Pastor Paul

## Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, August 14, 2016

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	John Burdick	Joyce Daugherty
<b>Communion Server</b>	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Jack Barnaart
<b>Ushers</b>	Randy/Brenda Teegardin Lyle/Joyce Proksch	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Joe Longcor, Sandy Mosteller
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Steve/Peg Kaiser	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Winick
<b>Nursery</b>	Cheryl Drumm	Volunteers needed
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Chris Bush	Pastor Paul

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**Today, August 7**

Worship at 10:00 am

**Wednesday, August 10**

Prayer group 6:00 pm