

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Walk This Way

Jesus says he is “the way,” but what does he mean? Does he mean a path to a location, or is he referring to the way he lives? Of course, the answer is probably both.

This passage from John’s gospel is often read at funerals. In that circumstance, we envision that Jesus goes to prepare a place for us in a geographical location we call heaven. Believing in Jesus is the way to get there.

But in John’s gospel, the good news is that *God* has made a way to *us*. Jesus continues to be with us. We don’t have to wait to be with him until after we die. The resurrected Jesus is with us, giving us abundant life *now* and into eternity!

In baptism we are joined to Jesus’ death and resurrection, so that, as Martin Luther says in the Small Catechism, “the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and . . . daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Luther continues by reminding us of the apostle Paul’s words in Romans 6: “We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might *walk in newness of life*” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1165, emphasis added).

The Word became flesh (John 1:1). Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is at one with the Father. To know Jesus and be at one with Jesus is to be at one with God. And when we are at one with Jesus, we walk like him, in his way.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides 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.

6th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017

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

Percussive Praise

Grace Notes

Tongues of Fire (10:45)

Clapper Kids

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

All Are Welcome vs 1-3

ELW 641 (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.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

Prayer of the Day

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth.

☑ **In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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

Quiet Reflections

Grace Notes

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Ⓛ A reading from **Acts:**

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth,

and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.** ☑

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats.** ☑

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. ☒

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

☐ A reading from **1 Peter:**

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

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

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

☐ The 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

Loving Spirit

WOV 683 (blue book)

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 risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Ⓐ We pray for the church. Draw your whole church together as one. Bring an end to division. Send your Spirit into your people and rouse us to greater love and mission. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Settlement Lutheran Church in Gowen, Hickory Corners Wesleyan Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Hear us, O God.

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

Ⓐ For the earth. For scientists, photographers, and explorers. For scholars, poets, musicians, artists, and all who lead us to greater knowledge and appreciation of beauty. For lakes and rivers, watersheds and wetlands, ponds and oceans. Hear us, O God.

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

Ⓐ For the nations. Give wisdom to those who govern. Strengthen all who work for peace. Protect those who have been displaced or have left their homes in search of safety and freedom. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Hear us, O God.

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

A For those in need. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who suffer post-traumatic stress. For those who struggle with addiction. For those who grieve and all who are ill. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Sharon Duits, Kris Gilbert, Barb Macaully, the family of Linda Benedict, Karen Roebuck, Doug Haddix, Johnny Kleinbrink, Tim Lowe, Jamie Coplin and John Glasgow.* Hear us, O God.

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

A For this assembly. Bless those preparing for baptism and affirmation of baptism. Strengthen our ministries of evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care. Deepen our faith and knowledge of you. *We ask your blessing of discernment upon our Call Committee, and bless our congregation with endurance while we wait for our next Pastor. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader who will receive your call of service to Grace, and let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Hear us, O God.

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

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.

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

A With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Inspire us by their witness to your love. Bring us into your eternal presence to live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

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

P Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

Grace Notes

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (10:45)

Clapper Kids

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

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

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

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.

☐ 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, oh God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

☑ **We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.**

☐ 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, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

☩ To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen. Amen. 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

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.

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
Children of the Heavenly Father
Bread of Life From Heaven

ELW 403 (red book)
ELW 781
ELW 474

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.**

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

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

All Are Welcome vs 4-5

ELW 641 (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.**

Postlude

Water Music

Clapper Kids

Please feel free to come up close and even ring a bell or chime with the bell choir

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 111 Weekly Giving: \$2,974.00 Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, saltine crackers, instant mashed potatoes.

Commitment Sunday – today is the day we make our commitments for giving to the work and ministry of Grace. You will be given time at the beginning of the service to fill out your “My Treasures” Pledge Card, and then ushers will come with baskets to collect them. Remember, your pledge is the sign of your thanksgiving to God for the many gifts he has given, as well as your commitment to the mission and ministry of this church.

Grace Prayer walk and party

When: **Today** after second service.
Where: The home of Phil and Amy Poholski
Address: 6810 Highlandview Dr., Middleville
Phone: 948-3655

For those that are able, we will take a walk through the woods on a mowed path, good shoes are recommended, approximately 1.5 miles., or a walk down a paved drive, 2/3 mile. Or you may sit and relax on the deck. Food will be provided: Hot dogs, potato salad, beans, chips, desert, ice tea and lemonade. If you would like something stronger, say soda, beer, or wine, please BYO.

Synod Assembly begins today. Remember your delegates and Pastor Paul as they gather with Lutherans throughout the Synod at the Comfort Inn, Mt Pleasant, Michigan. Your delegates include Chris Bush and Angela Pruitt.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, **May 29**, Memorial Day. Plan, instead to attend the Hastings Parade and dedication of the memorial renovations at the park.

Worship Service Time Change – Remember that next Sunday is the last Sunday for our regular worship schedule. **Beginning on June 4th**, worship times move to the summer schedule: 8:00 & 10:00 am

Victoria’s vacation – Victoria will be on vacation **June 3 – 16**. We have several volunteers who will be available from 9 am – 12 noon to answer phones and check the mail during this time.

Ladies' Summer Bible Study: If you are interested in participating in a bible study on the concept of fruit as used throughout the bible, please contact Kate Watson (kp0027@gmail.com) to be added to the information distribution list. Dates and times are still TBD.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, May 21

Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am
 Adult Forum 9:30 am
 Children's Church 10:45 am
 Prayer walk & Party at Poholski's
 Synod Assembly begins

Monday, May 22

Congregational Care 5:30 pm
 LACS Rehearsal 6:30-9:00 pm

Thursday, May 25

Bell Choir outing

Sunday, May 28

Last Sunday for regular worship hours

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	John Burdick	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Clyde Watson
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Children's Church		Lisa & Katie Pohl
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 28, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Hope Peck
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gwen Hansen, Sandy Mosteller
		Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	<i>Volunteers</i>	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church		Traci Wales, Kristi Winick
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner