

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Seeds of Mercy and Grace

In 2015, *Time* magazine named German Chancellor Angela Merkel “Person of the Year.” At the time she was known worldwide for her resolve to allow tens and hundreds of thousands of refugees into the country. Just as some praised her as a leader with compassion, others, fearing there could be terrorists among the refugees, believed she was foolishly endangering her people. Nonetheless, the world leader, daughter of a Lutheran pastor, remained resolute, trusting that even if there were evil ones among those who came into the country, she would not deny the possibility of a new life to the refugees.

Years ago a small group of gardeners in northern Wisconsin scattered seeds from lupine pods along state roadsides, leaving them to propagate wherever they fell and however they would grow. Now, decades later, every year in early summer an orchestra of purple and pink, blue, yellow, and white lupine performs visual symphonies for miles and miles along the highways in spite of all the competing seeds that have, over the years, fallen onto that same ground. Whatever weeds and thistles, brush and vines were rooted, they did not diminish or destroy or even restrain the splendor that bloomed from the seeds those gardeners had planted.

When the disciples, so puzzled by the parable, asked Jesus why the sower would allow weeds to remain among what the sower had planted, he repeated his familiar, hopeful message of grace.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu understood Jesus’ message when, even in the dark days of South African apartheid, he wrote, “Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death” (from *An African Prayer Book* [New York: Random House, 1995]).

The disciples’ question brings us to the deep root of grace. Let the kingdom of heaven grow in the world. The seeds of mercy, grace, compassion, and forgiveness will prevail.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2017

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 Song

Open Now the Gates of Beauty

ELW 533 (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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.

☑ **By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith, hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

☐ A reading from **Isaiah:**

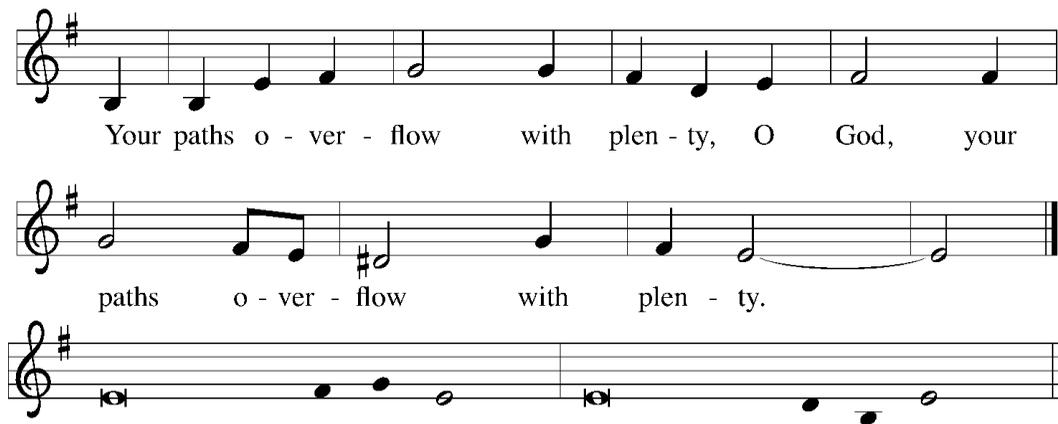
¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65:1-13



Three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics: "Your paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty, O God, your". The second staff continues: "paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty." The third staff is empty.

¹You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one | who answers prayer,
to you all | flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are strong- | er than we are,
but you blot out | our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!**

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple. ℞

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains | by your power;
you are girded a- | bout with might.**

⁷You still the roaring | of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy. ℞**

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing. ℞

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

A A reading from **Romans**:

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

☐ 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

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

A brief silence.

A Gracious God, we give thanks for your living word that goes out and does not return empty. Make your church a partner in accomplishing what you desire. Unite us in faith, witness, 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 companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea; Maple Grove Brethren Church in Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For land, creatures, and people suffering from drought, that gentle rain bring life and hope. For mountains, hills, and the trees of the field, that all creation clap for joy. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayers.**

A For nations suffering the violence and hunger of war. For exiles and refugees. Lead them home in peace and bless them with your fullness. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayers.**

A For victims and perpetrators of race-based crime. For all who suffer sorrow, illness, or injury. Bring them justice, healing, and new life by the power of your Spirit. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Kris Gilbert, Margaret Wood, Barbara Macaully, Sharon Duits, Corrina Palmer, Tim Lowe, Gale Morway, Zeus Duits, John Glasgow and the family of Sue Pennington.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayers.**

A For this congregation and its leaders; through our shared work, let your word prosper among us and bring life to the community beyond our doors. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and bless our congregation with patience while we wait for our next Pastor. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace, and let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayers.**

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 Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayers.**

A In thanksgiving for all who have died recently, for strangers and dear ones who have blessed our lives and sparked our hope. Give comfort and confidence to all who mourn. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayers.**

P All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **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 out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486 (red book)



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



síes la co - mu - nión; pues a - síes la co - mu - nión.
 feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Offering Prayer

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

C 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.

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.

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:



San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
 earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
 name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
 Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation everything was 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; He 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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,

- ☑ **we await that day when all the people of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- ☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- ☑ **let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**
- ☐ Through him all honor and glory 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 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

- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



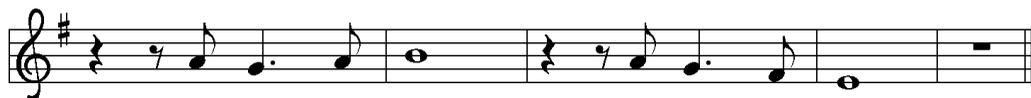
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
As the Grains of Wheat
As We Gather at Your Table*

ELW 512 (red book)
ELW 465
ELW 522

Stand as you are able.

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.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

P May 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.

Sending Song

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551 (red book)

Dismissal

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

G Thanks be to God.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 93

Weekly Giving: \$2,916.00

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.

Renovation Volunteers - We are looking for 8-12 volunteers to join our work crew on **July 29th** to start the next phase of our renovation. For more information please contact Doug Neeb.

Outdoor service & 3rd annual Grace Car Show on July 30 will be a one service Sunday, worship at 10:00 am, with a luncheon to follow at 11:30. The luncheon is provided by Thrivent and the Social Activities Committee. Car Show begins at 9:00 am. We are worshipping outdoors so bring lawn chairs for your comfort.

Annual Meeting is today after worship. You can find a copy of the annual report on the usher's shelf at the entrance to the worship space.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Youth Fundraiser last Sunday a success. The funds collected will help finance their trip to the Synod Gathering in Detroit on July 22 and the churchwide Youth Gathering in 2018. Your help is appreciated.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, July 23

Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am

Monday, July 24

LACS Rehearsal 6:30-9:00 pm

Tuesday, July 25-29

Pastor Paul out of town

Sunday, July 30

Worship at 10:00 am only

3rd annual car show 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mary Kuhlman	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Doug Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Hope Peck
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke & <i>Volunteers</i>
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Lyle/Joyce Proksch	Doug/Diane Neeb
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	Chris Bush

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, July 30, 2017

Assisting Ministers		Traci Wales
Cantor		Vickey Argo
Lector		Carol Vos
Communion Server		Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer		Grayson Patton
Usher		John Burdick, Kay Marsh
		Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.		<i>Volunteers</i>
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	Chris Bush