

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Rev. Paul E. Kuhlman, Pastor
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The Steadying Hand

This scene features a lot of vivid imagery: one can easily picture Jesus walking on the water, and Peter attempting to do the same. For most of us today, when we imagine trying to walk along the surface of a body of water, we likely take into account the law of gravity, and unless we're talking about a frozen lake in the middle of winter, we just can't wrap our minds around it.

But gravity wasn't what came to the minds of the disciples as they saw their Lord walking across the water toward them. It wasn't that Jesus was defying gravity, but that he appeared to be a ghost. Naturally, the disciples were afraid. So Jesus immediately revealed who he was and told the disciples, "Do not be afraid" (Matt. 14:27).

Often fear is accompanied by doubt. A child who is told that nothing is hiding underneath her bed still might wonder if something is. A teenager could be afraid to invite his crush to a school dance, even though friends have confirmed that the feelings are mutual. Many people fear losing their job to a more experienced person. And although Jesus identified himself to the disciples while he was on the waves, it still wasn't enough to convince Peter. And even when Peter got his proof and stepped out onto the water, still the doubt was there, and Peter began to sink.

Despite Peter's doubt, Jesus remained with him and immediately reached out his hand to save him. Jesus was there with the disciples on the stormy sea. He reached out to Peter. Jesus will also reach out to us in our own fears and doubts, rescuing us when we begin to sink and telling us, "Do not be afraid."

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10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 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

When Peace Like a River

ELW 785 (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 . . . O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid.

☑ **Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

I Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

☐ A reading from **I Kings:**

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

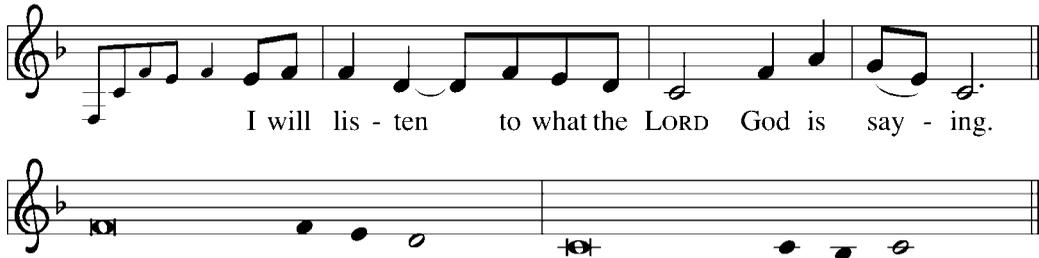
¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that

said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:8-13



⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.** ☐

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.** ☐

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

☐ A reading from **Romans**:

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **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 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith" who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

☞ 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

Rock of Ages

ELW 623 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☞ Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

☞ O God our ruler, continue to send out your church on earth to be light and salt to the world. Keep giving us the heart to do your work. 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; Peace Lutheran Church in Holland, Middleville United Methodist Church;*

Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

▲ O God our creator, you quiet the seas and silence the wind. Restore your creation to the perfection and beauty you spoke into being. Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayers.

▲ O God our redeemer, inspire leaders with the righteousness that comes from faith, so that your justice thrives throughout the world. 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,

☞ hear our prayers.

▲ O God our sustainer, comfort those who are lonely, fearful, or burdened by doubt. Give meaningful work to those who seek employment. Walk with those who are grieving or ill, and with all who face the last days of their lives. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Keenan Rudesill, Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons and the Ron Merrill family.* Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayers.

▲ O God our encourager, empower this assembly to boldly proclaim and live out your love to all who long to hear a word of hope and kindness. Equip us to use our hands, feet, voices, and minds to share the bounty you have given us. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and patience for our congregation 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,

☞ hear our prayers.

▲ 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.

▲ Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayers.

▲ O God our savior, we rejoice in the example of the saints who have gone before us until we join them around your throne. Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayers.

☐ Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

☞ Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ 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.

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.

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



sí - es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí - es la co - mu - ni - ón.
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.

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

☞ 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 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, 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,



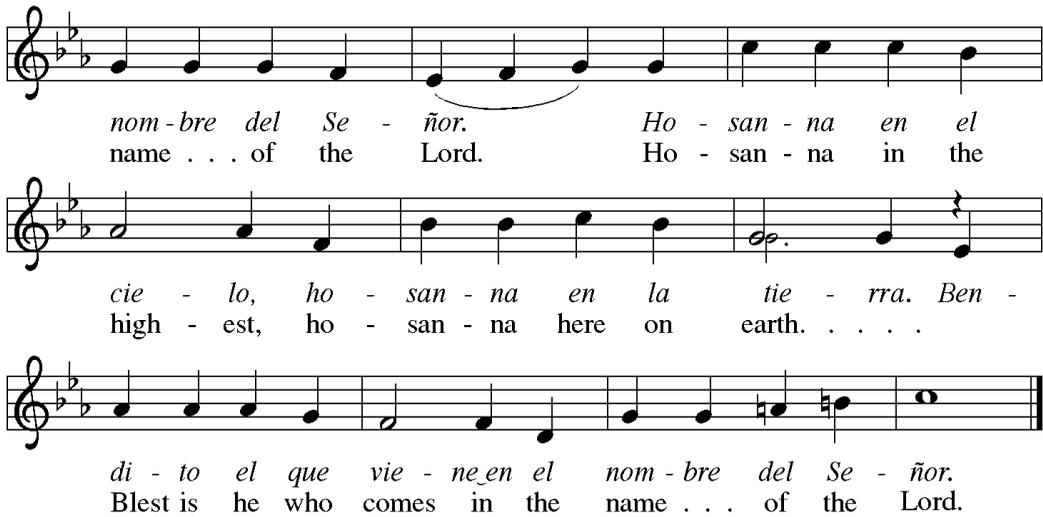
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



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

- P** Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation everything was whole and well in your praise.
- C** **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**
- P** 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,
- C** **we await that day when all the people of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- P** Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- C** **let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**
- P** Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
- C** **both now and forever. Amen.**

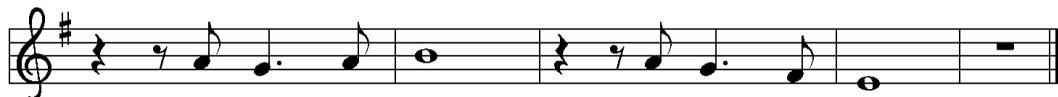


ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,
have . . mer-cy up - on us,

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
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,
grant us your peace,

da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace.

Taste and See

Bread of Life from Heaven

Now the Silence

ELW 493 (red book)

ELW 474

ELW 460

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

You Servants of God

ELW 825 (blue book)

Dismissal

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

G **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, August 13

Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am

Noisy Offering

Monday, August 14

Community Outreach 6:00 pm

Tuesday, August 15

Council 6:00 pm

CROP Walk Recruiters 7:00 pm

Thursday, August 17

Children's Church Teacher's meeting 7:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Mary Kuhlman	Kate Watson
Lector	Chris Bush	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	<i>Volunteer</i>	Clyde Watson
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Gary/Lisa Golnek
		Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Lyle/Joyce Proksch	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, August 20, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Mark Anton	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Carol Vos	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Carla Neil, Kristi Winick
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 94 Weekly Giving: \$5,648.00 Budget Amount: \$

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, canned pasta (ie, ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc) , instant mashed potatoes.

American Red Cross CPR and First Aid course being offered at Grace on August 21 and 22. Class will include videos, games, scenarios, and time on the manikins and AED machines. You'll also receive a participant's manual and ready reference cards that include full-color images and easy-to-read text that will walk you step by step through a variety of lifesaving skills. You can choose to be tested at the end of the class and become certified through American Red Cross, or you can just come and practice the lifesaving skills on the manikins. Sign up is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Or talk to Kim Domke 269-908-0024.

Backpack Program – Grace will again be partnering with Barry County United Way to help ensure that children (Pre-K & Young 5's) go back to school with the supplies they need to start the year off. We are currently seeking the following items: pencils, crayons (12-16 color), glue sticks, pencil top erasers, scissors, boxes of tissues, small backpacks, water bottles, plastic ziplocs, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, post-it notes, highlighters, dry erase markers, pencil boxes, cardboard pocket folders. These will be distributed on August 21 & 22. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mike Kemper.

Wine and cheese party: At Barry and Margaret Wood's house, Saturday September 9th at 6:00pm. All welcome. Bring Hors d'oeuvres to share, and beverage of one's choice. Questions contact Barry or Margaret Wood.

THANK YOU GRACE for the loving response to the Hastings Food Pantry June Food Drive. 480 pounds of food X \$2.17 (Feeding America formula) equals about \$1,040 plus the \$605 in cash donations. Hastings Food Pantry sends their thanks and invites anyone who wants to volunteer to come check it out at First United Methodist Church in Hastings. Talk to Kim Domke for more details.