

Grace Lutheran Church

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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Giving to the Giver

Does anyone really like paying taxes? Even though we know that money paid to the government helps fund important items such as roads, bridges, and public safety, the mysteriously small paycheck each month and the arduous accounting process each year remind us how much cash we must hand over. It doesn't end there, of course. If you've ever looked at a cell phone or cable TV bill in detail, or examined the fine print of your airline ticket, you know the reality of government fees and taxes. "Do I get to keep any of my money?" we cry in frustration.

On top of that, this is the time when many of our churches are discussing stewardship, budgets for the coming year, and the need for each of us to support the mission and ministry of the congregation and the wider church with our time, skill, and material resources. Give to God what is God's, we are told. And indeed, we should. But let us not give to God, or our neighbor who is served by our giving, as though we were paying a tax. Let us not give grudgingly, believing that stewardship is essential to retaining our salvation. Eternal life is not a bridge, road, or fire department, and we do not earn it with money or good works.

Rather, as we consider how and what we ought to give to God, let us remember that all we have—ourselves, our time, our possessions—are gifts from God, who loves us, cares for us, and sees to it that we have "daily bread." Even the government is a gift, given for the peaceful ordering of society. As we examine what we have and wonder if there is enough to give, let us first be grateful and rejoice that God has given us something to give.

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All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2017

In the assembly today, we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest,” who have fought the good fight, who have gained the crown. In the same breath, we petition our God for the strength to hear and heed the admonitions of the Lord in today’s Gospel.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

For All the Saints, O Lord

ELW 427 (red book)

Greeting

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity; one God; the only sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

☑ Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167 (red book)

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today’s reading provides a response to the question asked in 6:17: “Who is able to stand?” The writer responds to the faithful with the assurance of God’s protection and a vision of eventual victory.

☐ A reading from **Revelation:**

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me,

“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for
those who fear the LORD lack noth - ing.

**May be sung in canon.*

¹I will bless the LORD | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

²**I will glory | in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. ☑

³Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;
let us exalt God’s | name together.

⁴**I sought the LORD, who | answered me**
and delivered me from | all my terrors.

⁵Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me**
and saved me from | all my troubles. ☑

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD
and de- | livers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the | LORD is good;**
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. 

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

 A reading from **1 John:**

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able

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

Matthew 5:1-12

In the beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

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

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

▣ 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

Stand as you are able

Song of the Day

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able

Affirmation of Faith

▣ We affirm our faith as the body of Christ . . .

▣ **We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us. He heals people and transforms lives,**

and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all Creation; and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.

We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the Body of Christ, God's holy universal church. We are confident in the forgiveness of sin, the power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life. In all things it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen

Prayers

A Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

A brief silence.

A Gather your church from every nation, tribe, people, and language to proclaim your salvation. Defend and preserve those who are persecuted because of their faith. 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; Grace Lutheran Church in Lansing, Pleasant Valley United Brethren Church in Lake Odessa;* Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul Nuechterlein. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon Pastor Ken Scheck, who was recently called for service to Grace. Lord in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Reveal your will for your creation, mighty God. Renew waters, lands, and skies that are threatened by our carelessness. Teach us to honor and care for the works of your hands.

G hear our prayer.

A Move the hearts of all who participate in upcoming elections. Give courage, generosity, and vision to candidates and voters alike. Guide elected officials to answer the call of those who cry out for fair and just policies. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Soothe the pain of those who suffer. Comfort those who mourn through the ministry of nurses, those who provide hospice care, visitation ministers, chaplains, and caregivers. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, including *Danny Gillons, Steve Kaiser, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow, Zeus Duits, Cora Cunningham, Debbie Wood, Barbara Macaully and Kris Gilbert.* Lord in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Seek the lost, those who hunger and thirst with questions of faith, and those absent from our worship today. Make us ready to receive newcomers you send to our congregation. Also, make us ready to receive Pastor Ken, and his family, and bless us with renewed energy for mission and ministry. Lord in your mercy,

G 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 Lord in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A We remember with thanksgiving the blessed saints whom you have received into your glory. Guide us with them to the springs of the water of life. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Thanksgiving for Saints of the Church

A O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world. As we pray, we know that we are surrounded by this great, rejoicing cloud of witnesses. Yet, even as we name these holy ancestors, we thank you, O God, for others whose names we never knew or have forgotten, who showed us the meaning of life in Christ. Let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

P We are thankful for Al Miller, Judy Holland, Bobbie Roush, Matthew Reese Jarmen, Suzanne VonSeggern, Mike Pennington, Hal & Marge Eaton, Max Grisham, Dollie Larsen, Jessica Purdum, Jeremy Buehl, Gordy Hess, David Brill, Larry B Hall, Amy Brown, Walter Brown Sr, Jack Stratton Jr, Nellie Manni, Martha Whittum, Maude Gardner, Marie & Robert Ehredt, Josephine & Lester Halstead, Eddy Ehredt, Joan Moullette, Grace Ehredt, Tom Howard, Jack Schreiner, Jodi Reid, Larry Hensley Peggy Smith, Kim McMellen, Jessica Purdum, Roy Schlachter, Dick Harding, Ken Anderson, Sargent Ryan Curtiss, Red, Hilda and Rosemary. May the memory of their faith inspire our own. Let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

Members may write and then bring the names of those whom they would like to remember forward, coming down the center aisle. You may deposit those slips of paper into the prayer box that is placed in front of the altar. You may return to your seat by way of the side aisles.

Special Music

Blest Are They
By David Haas

Vocal Ensemble

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

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offering Prayer

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need.

☑ **The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.)

Continue standing as you are able

Great Thanksgiving

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Presider:' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The second staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: '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 God thanks and praise.'

Presider: Congregation:

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 God thanks and praise.

☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ to whom all the saints and martyrs bore witness with their lives, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

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

☐ Holy God, 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 you 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; 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 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, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ From the beginning Jesus shared meals with his disciples. Breaking bread and sharing the cup are powerful ways we remember that God shares the very stuff of life, and so do we. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. So come to this table, you who have been to this meal often and you who have not been for a long time. Come to this table, it is the Lord who invites you. Come to this table, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who feel you have failed. Come to this table for Jesus, the Christ, invites you to eat with God and meets us here.

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.

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.

Taste and See

ELW 493 (red book)

Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 474

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

ELW 628

Stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come.
G **Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

- P** The love of God surround you; the grace of † Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.
G Amen.

† During the Sending Hymn, those who wish (especially children) are invited to come forward to make music and dance in the area in front of the pews on the left. There are instruments and scarves in and near the basket by the wall. †

Sending Song

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654 (red book)

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Sound the good news.
G Thanks be to God.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, November 5

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am
Children's Church 10:45 am
Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Monday, November 6

Communication Team 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 7

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

Thursday, November 9

Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Grace Notes bell choir 5:45 – 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 12

***Noisy Offering**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 110

Weekly Giving: 3,018.00\$

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

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

For emergency pastoral care please contact Pastor Paul Nuechterlein, 269-290-4533. For other needs, please contact the church office at 945-9414 or Grace President Chris Bush at 517-614-5546.

Pastor Nuechterlein will be offering an adult class between services: studying *The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our "Correct" Beliefs*, by Peter Enns, during the month of November.

Women's Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesday, November 7th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Noisy Offering will be collected next Sunday, November 12, benefiting Barry County Cares.

Family Promise of Barry County

What: A Dinner/Silent Auction Fundraising Event to celebrate the "NEW" Family Promise Day Center!

When: Sunday, Nov. 12th, 2017. Doors will open at 4:00pm with dinner being served between 4:30-5:00pm.

Where: Hope United Methodist Church, 2920 S M-37 Hwy, Hastings, MI (across the street from M-79 junction)

Why: Because...we are so close to our goal of being able to serve homeless families with children in Barry County and want to show you our NEW Day Center!

We Hope To See You There!! Bring a friend.

Snow birds - If you are a snow bird, please make sure the office has your winter contact information and the dates you plan to be away.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Dan & Grayson Patton	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
Children's Church		Traci Wales, Kristi Winick
Chancel Team	Volunteers needed	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, November 12, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	Chris Bush	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Doug/Diane Neeb
		Gary/Lisa Golnek
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Children's Church		Shayna Gibbons
Chancel Team	Volunteers Needed	