

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St

Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414
(269) 945-2645

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Beyond the Shut Door

Perhaps the most striking image in today's gospel is the one at the end of the parable: "And the door was shut." A shut door is often the imagery used to indicate the end of an opportunity. Worshiping communities may come up against various types of shut doors. Some may be found only occasionally, as when everyone seems happily connected and efforts to welcome newcomers are ignored. Other shut doors may be well known and a source of persistent frustration, as when positions of leadership are held by a select few, or when what happens inside the church rarely seems to connect with what is going on in the neighborhood or the world. A shut door is not the image one hopes for when considering congregational health or the mission of the church in the local community.

It is surprising to hear Jesus speaking about a shut door and the kingdom of heaven in the same parable, since he is the one who criticizes the scribes and Pharisees who "lock people out of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 23:13). It is also surprising because the shut door doesn't fit with Jesus' ministry of welcoming, healing, and eating with those whom society shunned. What does seem to fit is the invitation to meet the bridegroom and then go into the wedding banquet. Jesus is always encouraging his followers to join him, to come and see and share in the life he offers. But it is often our fear that shuts the door against Jesus.

Whether shut doors stand for opportunities gone or present obstacles, at the heart of discipleship is the willingness to be moved by instruction. As followers of Jesus we are given the challenge to remain with Jesus. Remaining with Jesus means hearing him tell us not to be afraid. Remaining with Jesus means that we can follow him into the banquet feast without delay.

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2017

Even though Reformation Sunday has passed, we continue to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the strides that have been made for a greater sense of unity, especially between the Catholic and Lutheran Church. We pray that the fire of the Spirit (represented by the color red) will continue to burn in all people of faith the passionate love for others that God has shown us through the life and ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

Come, We that Love the Lord

ELW 625 (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 . . . O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

☑ **Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

☐ A reading from **Amos:**

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70

You are my help - er and my de - liv - er - er;
O LORD, do not tar - ry.

¹Be pleased, O God, to de - | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. ☒

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**

let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the LORD!”

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick - | ly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. ☒

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

☐ A reading from **1 Thessalonians:**

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



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 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

☐ 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

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638 (red book)

Remain standing as you are able

Affirmation of Faith

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

G **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

Sit or kneel as you are able

Prayers

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

A brief silence.

A Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church's mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies. 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; **Calvary Lutheran Church in Lansing, Pleasantview Church in Dowling***; 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 We give thanks for natural resources like oil, coal, trees, sun, water, and wind. Help us to use them wisely. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction. Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. 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 Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls. Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, including *Danny Gillons, Mary Golnek, Mike King, Dale Kelley, Sandy Nowrocke, Gale Morway, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow and Zeus Duites*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A Bless those who prepare for marriage or who have been married in this place. Strengthen all bonds of friendship and relationship in our community. Give us joy in life together. 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 Keep us alert for Christ's coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died. Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord in your mercy,

G **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.

G **Amen.**

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

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offering Prayer

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

G **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 for the Presider, and the second through fifth staves are for the Congregation. 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: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with
you. *Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We
lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give
thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* 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 who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, 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:

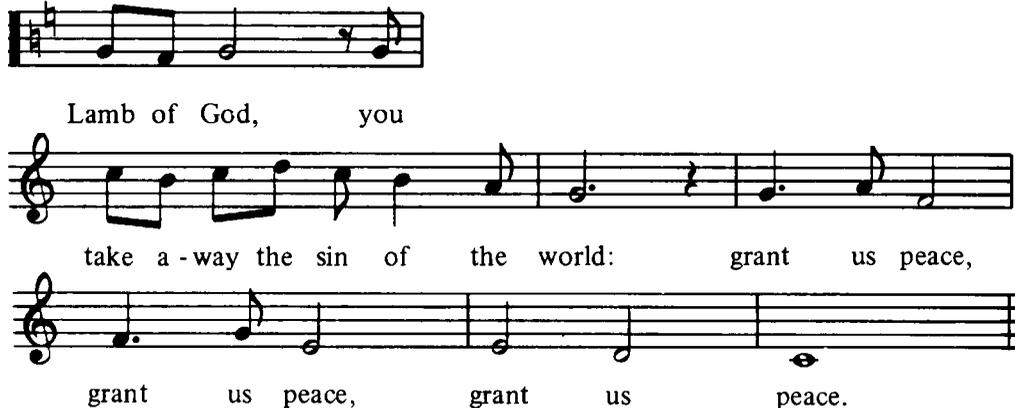
You are the way of justice and peace:

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.

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ELW 494 (red book)

Now the Silence

ELW 460

I Received the Living God

ELW 477

Stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come.
☒ **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

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

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

ELW 763 (red book)

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.
☒ **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, November 5	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am *Noisy Offering
Monday, November 13	Community Outreach 5:00 pm
Tuesday, November 14	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Women of Faith 1:30 – 3:00 pm @ Mary Rider's
Wednesday, November 15	Worship Planning meeting 6:30 pm
Thursday, November 16	Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45 – 5:00 pm Grace Notes bell choir 5:45 – 7:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:45 am</u>
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
Chancel Team	Volunteers needed	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, November 19, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Joe Longcor Gwen Hansen, Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Melissa Patton	Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Kate Watson
Chancel Team	Volunteers Needed	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week:

Weekly Giving: \$5,044.00

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 cake frosting.

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.

Thank you to the anonymous giver for the gift of appreciation for my time at Grace. I'm grateful for the hospitality I received from the people of Grace! Blessings on your ministry as you await the ministry of Pastor Ken. Grace and peace to you, Pastor Paul Nuechterlein.

2018 Calendar is now up on the bulletin board outside the Parish Admin's office. All groups are responsible for writing down their meeting dates, events, etc.

Noisy Offering benefiting Barry County Cares will be received during worship this morning. Thank you for your gifts of \$43.49 received last month.

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.

