

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Listening in the Fog

It's an astounding scene: Jesus on the mountain with Peter, James, and John. Elijah and Moses appear. Jesus' appearance is transformed. This is not an ordinary day with Jesus! Then the cloud fogs everything up—which is perhaps more similar to our experience of faith than beholding Jesus in all his glory.

A voice is heard in the fog: “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” (Mark 9:7). Apparently they had *not* been listening to him. Jesus had been teaching that he would be rejected, suffer, die, and on the third day be raised. Jesus had been telling the disciples that following him meant denying themselves, taking up their cross, and losing their lives for the sake of the good news. No, they didn't want to hear this. They wouldn't listen.

We often want a faith that is all sunshine and clarity. We often want a life that is a straightforward path with no confusion, stumbling, or sacrifice. But most of the time we are walking in the fog of uncertainty and in a cloud of confusion. Life is not easy or clear, and neither is following Jesus and living by faith in the gospel. The transfiguration shows Jesus' disciples that he really is the one, and his way really is God's way. Elijah and Moses affirm by their appearance that Jesus is the continuation of God's plan.

Listen to him! Jesus' way of selfless love is the path to life for all. Listen to him! Even though life feels like a fog, God is with us on the journey. Listen to him! There is glory hidden among us all through our trials and sacrifices, the glory of the crucified Christ with us. Listen to him! The voice comes in the fog and says Jesus is the way and walks the way of the cross with us until the fog of this life becomes the clarity of the kingdom of justice and mercy for all.

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Transfiguration of Our Lord/Last Sunday after Epiphany

February 11, 2018

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

Shine Jesus, Shine

ELW 671 (red book)

Greeting

☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

WOV 789 (blue book)

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

Refrain

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray . . . Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts.

C Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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

2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

L A reading from **2 Kings**:

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

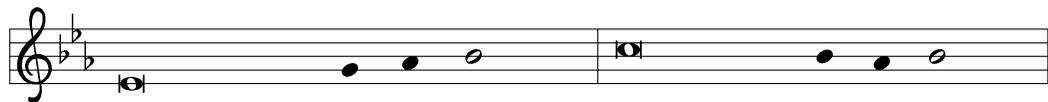
⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

☒ God, we thank you for your Word,

☒ the story of your grace.

Psalm 50:1-6



¹The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,**

God shines | forth in glory. ☒

³Our God will come and will | not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth | from above
to witness the judgment | of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my | loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness | of God’s cause,
for it is God | who is judge.** ☒

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

Ⓐ A reading from **2 Corinthians**:

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ⓔ God, we thank you for your Word,

ⓐ the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights
of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the
deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty.
dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.

that the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your ma -
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by

acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful-
jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of power that can
faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your

fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
nev - er fall; let their truth pre - vail o - ver
church is built, and the earth is filled with your

glo - ry.
un - be-lief.
glo - ry.

Final ending

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark**.

🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be

here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

☞ 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

How Good, Lord, to Be Here

ELW 315 (red book)

Sit.

Welcoming New Members (10:45 am)

☞ Please stand when your names are said: Erin Everly and Mentor Cherie Clements, David Greeley and Julian Kratochvil and Mentor Kristi Winick, Katie Golneck and Mentor Vickey Argo, Carolyn and Keith Moffit and Mentor Kay Howell.

☞ Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people who are one with us in the body of Christ, whom today we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

☞ Let us celebrate the love we have in Christ Jesus.

☞ **Let us share that love with one another.**

☞ Let us welcome those who are new in our midst.

☞ **Let us surround them with care and our attention.**

☞ People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

☞ **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

☞ Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ into this community of faith.

☞ **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

☞ Let us pray, Gracious God we give you thanks for our new members, *Erin, David, Julian, Katie, Carolyn and Keith* whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread, the prayers that are spoken, and in our service to others. We pray this in your most holy name. Amen.

Kneel or sit as you are able.

Prayers

☞ Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

☞ For the ministry of the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for congregations near and far, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including Bishops Elizabeth, and Craig, Assistants David, Sarah and Chrysanne; *Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant, Thornapple Valley Church in Hastings*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, seas and skies, and creatures seen and unseen, that all may be guided by your Holy Spirit to be stewards of our earth, let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For firefighters and police officers, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and corporate executives, and leaders of governments, that through their insight and patience, peace and justice prevail throughout the world. 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*. Let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that as Christ was transfigured on the mountaintop, sickness will be turned into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into assurance. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, including *Hope Palmer-Weston, Jane Secor, Audrey Burdick, Mary Golnek, Barb Macaully, Kris Gilbert and Caleb*. Let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For companions who accompany us on our journeys through life, for this community of faith that supports us, and for guidance during difficult times, that we see the glory of God revealed around us, let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ 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.

☞ Let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our days, let us pray.

☑ Have mercy, O God.

☐ Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ 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

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583 (red book)

Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.

☑ Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ And also with you.

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

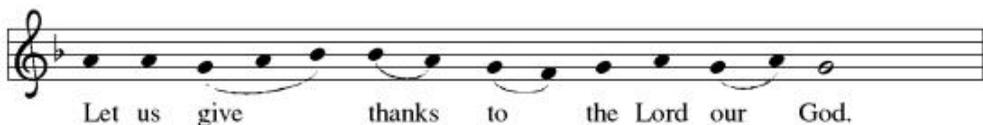
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

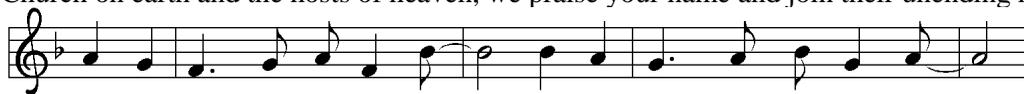


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, who is your light made manifest to all the nations, and so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

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

The musical score for 'Lamb of God' is written on three staves in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: '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.' The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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.

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838 (red book)

O Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 480

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

ELW 475

Stand

Prayer after Communion

- A** O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- C** You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

- P** The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C** 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

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ELW 318 (red book)

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 81

Weekly Giving: **\$5,302.23**

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of SPAM, juice boxes and sugar. They are VERY low on 64 oz juice bottles, Pasta and Rice A Roni, boxed potatoes--Julienne and scallop; canned navy & kidney beans and canned lasagna.

Chili Cookoff and Silent Auction today. Team Grace for Houston is having this fundraiser as an opportunity for fellowship, fun and fundraising. Please join us after the second service, so that we can help send 10 individuals from to Houston to grow deeper in faith and service to God and the Houston community.

We welcome Erin Everly, Katie Golnek, David Greeley, Julian Kratochvil and Carolyn & Keith Moffit into the body of Christ here at Grace Lutheran Church. Please welcome them and greet them at the chili cookoff. There will be a cake reception just previous to the beginning of the chili cookoff. Please take a seat at a table in the Fellowship Hall for prayer and cutting of the cake before we begin getting our lunch.

Ash Wednesday – Valentine dinner with heart healthy soups/salads, free will offering to go to CPR/First Aid/AED training. Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm

American Red Cross CPR, AED, First Aid class to be held at Grace Lutheran on the weekend of February 23 and 24. Are you prepared to save a life? Would you like to brush upon your skills? Check the Gathering Space bulletin board for more details, or speak with ARC instructor Kim Domke, (269) 908-0024.

Pasty Sale on March 10. Baked \$7.00 each and Unbaked \$6.00. Sign up sheet for orders is in the coffee area. Helpers needed on March 8, 9 & 10 if you're able and sign up for help is posted as well. Funds from this Pasty sale will be used to support the 10 youth going to Houston to the National Gathering. We already have six of the youth signed up to help during the Pasty sale to "learn the skills" for future years! Please talk with Joe Longcor if you have questions. His phone is 269-623-2348.

Renovation Update - Being good stewards of God, there was a decision to go ahead with the purchase of carpet that was needed for the church. The price for the carpet has risen steadily during our fundraising efforts and the church was faced with another price increase in the near future. The original debt amount was \$16,258.38. To date we have received **\$6,875** in generous donations from our members. The remaining debt for the carpet is **\$10,083.38**. We would be blessed if you would be willing to help pay down this debt we owe to ourselves. Thanks for your consideration. If you would like to write a check, please remember to write 'carpet fund' in the memo line.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, February 11	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am Noisy Offering Bell Choir rings Chili cook-off & silent auction after 2 nd service Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Monday, February 12	Outreach Committee 4:00 pm
Tuesday, February 13	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Women of Faith 1:30 pm @ Mary Rider's Brothers of Grace 7:00 pm
Wednesday, February 14	Lenten Supper 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
Thursday, February 15	Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm
Friday, February 16	Church Safety Seminar @ TVC 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Mark Anton	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Dan & Gavin Patton	Gary/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Melissa & Molly Patton	Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Kim Domke
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	Lisa Golnek

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, February 18, 2018

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	Jack Vos	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	<i>Volunteers</i>
Children's Church		Doug/Diane Neeb
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	Lisa Golnek