

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
July 15, 2018

## Strange Mercy

First the back story. Zechariah was speechless, literally. The day the angel, Gabriel, paid a visit to deliver the absurd news that Elizabeth, his wife, “getting on in years,” would have a child, he was struck speechless for doubting it. That was the first link in a chain of dramatic events. Months passed. The baby was born. On the day of ritual circumcision everyone expected he would be named Zechariah, after his father. Not so! The new father, still unable to speak, scribbled the name *John* on a tablet. Amazingly, his tongue flew loose with a prophecy we still echo in song today: “You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways” (Luke 1:76). That very day a haunting question arose among the people: “What then will this child become?” (Luke 1:66).

The macabre answer King Herod’s daughter gave when asked how he could reward her for dancing at his party seems a grim ending to a promising beginning: “Give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter” (Mark 6:25). There could be precious little reason to find solace in Zechariah’s words, “By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us” (Luke 1:78), when disciples recovered the baptizer’s mutilated body and laid it in a tomb. Strange mercy. Hearing the news, Jesus withdrew to a deserted place. His disciples did too.

Any attempt to justify all that is unjustifiable sinks beneath the weight of the truth. What is evil deserves no decoration.

The gruesome execution of John at the hesitant but brutal hand of Herod foreshadows Jesus’ own fate, the strange mercy of God “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:79).

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### BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don’t forget to check both sides of the card.

## 8th Sunday After Pentecost

July 15, 2018

*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 Music

*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*

ELW 786 (red book)

### Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G** **And also with you.**

**A** As in one body we have many members,

**G** **so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.**

**P** Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

**G** **I am there among them.**

**A** Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

**G** **with humility and gentleness.**

**P** Let us make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit,

**G** **in the unity of the Spirit's bond of peace.**

**A** Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace,

**G** **for mutual upbuilding of the body of Christ**

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us Pray... O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.

**G** **Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*Sit*

## First Reading

Amos 7:7-15

*Amos was not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he was an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicted with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encountered at Bethel.*

☐ A reading from **Amos**:

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.'

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 85

I will lis - ten to what the LORD God is  
say - ing, I will lis - ten to the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land. ☒**

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

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

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

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. ☒**

## Second Reading

## Ephesians 1:3-14

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

☒ A reading from **Ephesians:**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

☒ The word of the Lord.

☒ **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

*Refrain*

We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are



giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-geth-er



joined, the great-est and the least, we all are



one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.



- 1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
- 2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
- 3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her



hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-



ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion. par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing. bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

*Refrain*

ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion. par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing. bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 6:14-29

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

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

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

☐ 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*

The Spir - it in - ter - cedes for us with  
sighs too deep for words to ex - press. Oh, oh.

*Kneel or sit as able.*

## Prayers

**A** Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Abba, when we cry to you, your Spirit bears witness with our spirit. Give to your church the confidence of the children of God, so that we boldly share with everyone your world-saving love. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Messiah Lutheran Church of Roscommon, Faith Bible Church of Woodlnad; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

**C** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**A** The whole earth is full of your glory: cities teem, fields flourish, mountains soar, and waters abound. Blot out our sin of spoiling your creation. Send us to go for you, mending what is torn and tattered in your world. Hear us, O God.

**C** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**A** You so loved the world that you gave your only Son. In these days, when nation condemns nation, save us. Give us strength and fill us with your justice and peace. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson, Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley and Tyler Van Houten.* Hear us, O God.

**C** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**A** Your people cry out to you, seeking the goodness and hope of your holiness. Let the wind of your Spirit blow into the lives of all who suffer from injustice, want, or anguish of any kind. Hear us, O God.

**G** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**A** In our living and in our dying, we belong to you. In loving remembrance, we honor those who live with scars or have died defending our nation. Beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, and teach us your ways. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, including *Karl Golnek, Mary Golnek, Larry Hansen, Kira/Jaime/Ryan/Rory/Kim, Blake Huffman family, Kaylee, Tammy, Cheri, Dennis, Vickie, Walter, Charlene, Mary Stouten and Carl Eberhart.* Hear us, O God.

**G** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**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** Hear us, O God.

**G** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**A** With affection we remember the saints now departed and rejoice in their faithful witness. Through their example, provoke us to holy lives of loving service in your name. Hear us, O God.

**G** **The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, (2x's) oh.**

**P** By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** **Amen.**

*Stand as you are able*

## **Sharing the Peace of God**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**G** **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 it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.*

*Stand as you are able.*

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

## 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.

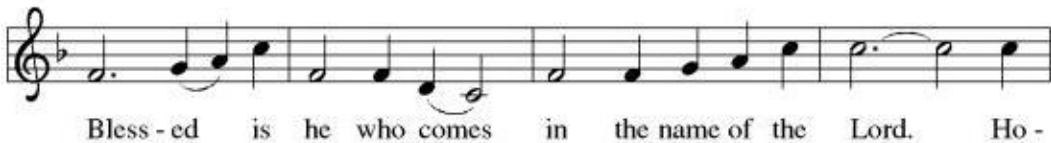
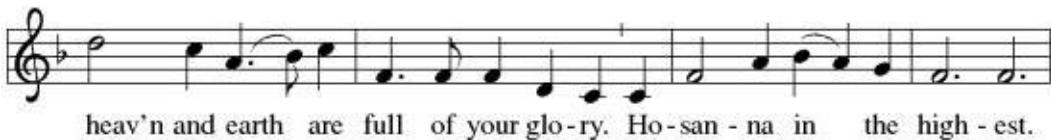
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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.



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
- C** **Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.**
- P** Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
- C** **Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.**
- P** Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
- C** **Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.**
- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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. O God of resurrection and new life:
- C** **Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.**
- P** Bless this feast.
- C** **Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.**
- P** Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.
- C** **We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:
- C** **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**

- P** Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

### *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*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*I Received the Living God*

ELW 477

*Morning Has Broken*

ELW 556

*When Our Song Says Peace*

ELW 709

### **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.

### **Congregational Announcements**

#### **Blessing**

**P** 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**

*Praise to You, O God of Mercy*

**ELW 208** (red book)

#### **Dismissal**

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today, July 15**

Annual Meeting at 9:00 am  
Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

**Thursday, July 19**

Bells Ring at the Woodland Library 10:30 – 11:30 am

**Friday, July 20**

Make and Take Sign Party at 6:00 pm in fellowship hall

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:45 am</u>
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Pastor Ken	Kate Watson
<b>Lector</b>	Jack Vos	Sandy Mosteller
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jan Schreiner	Phyliss Lietz
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Grayson Patton	Clyde Watson
<b>Usher</b>	Dan and Gavin Patton	Volunteers
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Melissa Patton	Eve Wright
<b>Chancel Team</b>	<b>Chris Bush &amp; Vickie Argo</b>	

### **Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, July 22, 2018**

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	Carl Schoessel	Kristi Winick
<b>Communion Server</b>	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Hope Peck
<b>Usher</b>	Kay Marsh & Dave Neeb	Ed & Luke Domke
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Lyle & Joyce Proksch	Doug and Diane Neeb
<b>Chancel Team</b>	<b>Chris Bush &amp; Vickie Argo</b>	

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 96    Weekly Giving: **\$8,546.00**    Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of refried beans, Pasta Roni, Rice A Roni, Spam canned salmon, corned beef hash, chili-no bean (yes, meat), Miracle Whip, mayo, sugar, shortening, canned frosting, juice boxes.

**Make and Take Sign Party:** Join us in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to the Carpet Fund.

**Interested in being a Shepherd on the Congregational Care Committee?**

Please contact Sharon Varkula @ 586-943-0666.

**Annual Meeting is today at 9:00 a.m.**

**4<sup>th</sup> annual car show and church service July 29:** Remember to mark your calendar for one service at 10:00 AM which will be “under the tent”. Plan to attend the GLC car show beginning at 9 am. This is open to anyone with classic or antique car, truck or motorcycle. After worship an open luncheon will be held from 11:30 to 1:30 PM for car show attendees, spectators and worshipers alike.

**Folk Music Rehearsal** for outdoor worship is meeting July 22nd between services at 9:30 am. All singers are invited.

**Next meeting time for Adult Forum will meet on August 5, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.** During this session the class focus will be how God’s grace changes our community. At the next meeting time the class will focus on how God’s grace changes our perspective.

**VBS needs** – a person who enjoys reading from a script and having fun telling a thematic story that lasts about 3 minutes. If interested, please talk to Pastor Ken about your willingness to do a “little” acting”.

**Relay for Life:** Saturday, August 4 from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm at Tyden Park in Hastings. Luminaria are available for \$10 in honor or memory of those who have battled cancer.

**Grace is blessed by generous people. For our Noisy Offering this past week we collected \$105.23. Thank you for your support of Barry County Cares.**