



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Hastings, Michigan**

# Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 13, 2020

*Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** We gather to worship God who has saved us and allows us an opportunity to do good. Jesus is the Lord of a great diverse community that has different worship styles and practices. We are called to welcome diversity among us not only at church but in our lives. We are not to limit God's grace, mercy, and peace. We are to share love with all.

## Announcements

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

### Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

- ☐ The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
  
- ☐ Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
- ☑ **For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!**
  
- ☐ All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
- ☑ **Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.**
  
- ☐ All colors and races give hearty praise!
- ☑ **Let us share your love with all. Amen**



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

## Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
- ☪ **Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading

## Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

- Ⓐ A reading from **Genesis:**

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

- Ⓐ The Word of the Lord.
- ☪ **Thanks be to God.**

☐ = Refrain

LORD, you are full of com- pas - sion and mer - cy,  
of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

### Psalm 103:8-13

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;  
<sup>9</sup>**you will not al- | ways accuse us,**  
**nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.** ☐

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup>**For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**  
**so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

<sup>13</sup>**As a father has compassion | for his children,**  
**so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.** ☐

## Second Reading

## Romans 14:1-12

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

📖 A reading from **Romans**:

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

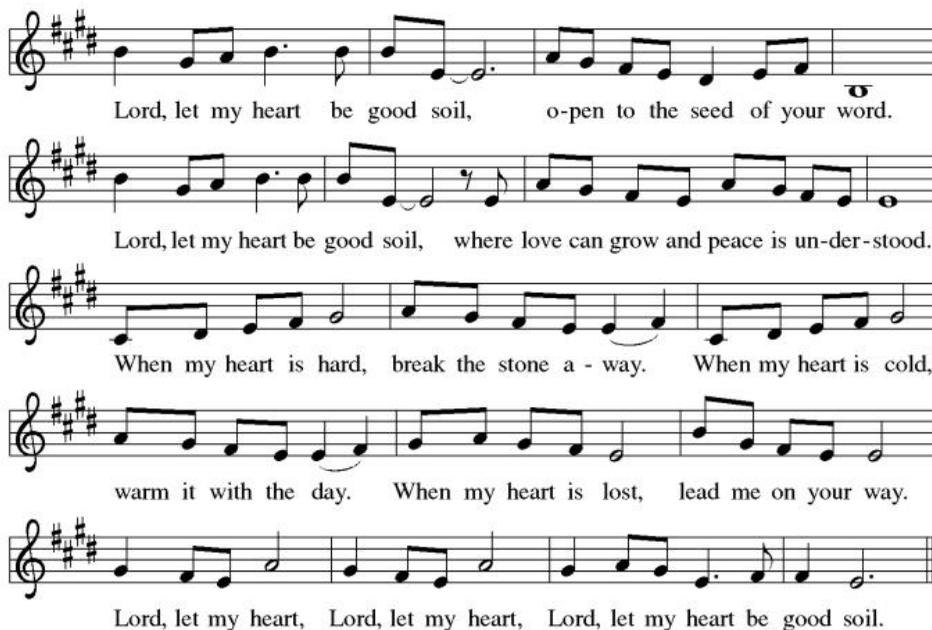
<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## Gospel Reading

## Matthew 18:21-35

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord

summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

- 📖 The Gospel of the Lord.
- 🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

### Children’s Time

#### Message

*Silence for reflection*

### Song of the Day

### Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW 359



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God’s char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er’s faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God’s the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

## Apostles Creed

**A** We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers

*After each petition, the Assisting Minister will end Hear us, O God. The people will speak, **Your mercy is great**.... as the prayer response.*

**A** Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence*

**A** You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants, David and Roseanne our synod companion Peace Lutheran Church, Sparta; Gull Lake Bible Church, Hickory Corners; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley, Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Bring comfort and healing to the following: *Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Jim Curtis family, Colleen Endsley family, Karl Golnek, Delmar Hansen, Jerry Hansen, Joe Longcor, Ron Neil, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Traci Wales and Eve Wright.* Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make Grace Lutheran Church a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. *(You may share your prayers at this time)*

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy.

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**Offering of Gifts and Music**

## Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na - da más;  
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;

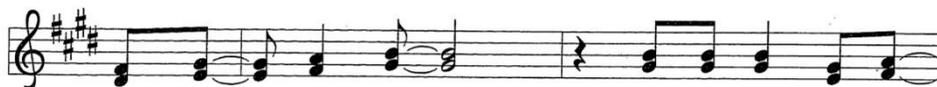


to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón y tu tro - no en él ten - drás.  
 take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.



2 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite

4 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be



would I with - hold; take my in - tel - lect

no lon - ger mine; take my heart, it is



and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.

## Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- ☒ **Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace

- Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.** (*We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.*)

## Lord's Prayer

- Ⓟ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☒ **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.**

## Mission Minutes

### Blessing

- Ⓟ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in God, and abound in thanksgiving. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
- ☒ **Amen.**



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

### Dismissal

**A** Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Deep Waters of Forgiveness

Churches have different practices around baptism. In some churches, a small bowl holds just enough water to trickle a few drops over the head. In others, the bowl is wider and the water is splashed with the whole hand. In yet other churches, the person is fully immersed in a font large enough for them to go all the way underwater. Sometimes the water stays in the bowl, sometimes a bit splashes out, and sometimes the whole area around the font gets wet. But no matter the amount of water used, there's always more where it comes from. God's waters of forgiveness run deeper than we will ever know.

The waters of baptism are so deep that even a few sprinkles cover a lifetime of falling short. We are forgiven time and again for a myriad of sins. And because the weight of sin has been lifted from us, we are free to extend such forgiveness to others.

In fact, our faith depends on it. In the Lord's Prayer, our petition for forgiveness is directly tied to our own willingness to forgive others: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Thankfully, we are not expected to conjure up such forgiveness on our own. We draw from the endless supply of divine reserves. Where we, and Peter, might have difficulty forgiving a mere seven times, Jesus reminds us that his kind of forgiveness can be measured on an exponential scale.

While our capacity for forgiveness may be limited, Jesus' well of forgiveness is deep enough for all people and all matters of sin. When we find ourselves struggling to extend forgiveness to others, we return to the baptismal font. This is an overflowing well of love. Drawing from this water, we draw from the limitless supply of forgiveness.

Remembering our baptism, we are reminded not only that we are forgiven, but that we, too, are agents of forgiveness in the world.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)  
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
September 13, 2020

## Stewardship Information

Attendance: 27 Views: 122

Weekly Giving: \$2,907.16

Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

**Today the congregation council and committee chairs will have its' training at 9:00 in the sanctuary.**

**Adult Forum** will continue a study on the book of Acts on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020** at 9:30 am. We will try to meet in the Gathering Area for the study. If we find that we cannot keep social distance of 6 feet, we will move to the fellowship hall.

**Crop Walk** is approaching. We are once again having a walk to help end hunger. We are thankful that the Outreach Committee is putting together a plan. Look for more details in the announcements to come and in the next GraceGram.

**DO YOU HAVE A FLARE FOR DECORATING?** The youth invite you to decorate your own pumpkin, gourd, or squash. They are holding a contest and will judge the best decorated, carved, simple or elaborate submissions. So, get your artistic skills ready. We are asking you to either take a picture of it and bring it or mail it to the church. You are also invited to take a digital picture of it and email it to [parishadmin@gracehastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@gracehastings.org). If you have any questions, please call or text Angela Pruitt at 810-348-6767. We can also schedule an appointment to take a picture of your creation.

**Youth are going Horseback riding October 3rd or 4<sup>th</sup> look for more details to come or call Angela Pruitt at 810-348-6767.**

**Private communion will resume on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 7:00 PM. There will be no fellowship hall communions tomorrow.** We have "private" communion in the fellowship hall at 3:00 pm on Monday and Saturday. **Wednesday will be at 7:00 pm.** *You must continue to call ahead to reserve your station, as we need to ensure that people can sit at social distancing. Please call 269.945.9414 for your reservation day.*

**ACH is available.** On our website, you will notice a donate tab. The credit card donations are now able to be utilized, along with your checking or savings account. Look for the link on our website [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

**Assisting Minister – Ethan Scheck**

**Lector – Cindy Olson**

**Cantor – Kate Watson**

**Musicians – Kim Domke, Cindy Olson, Ethan Scheck, Clyde Watson, Kate Watson, Lexie Watson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

*Ascribe to the Lord all glory! Shout praise to God's holy name. Come before our great God. Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. **1 Chronicles 16:29***

Onsite Worship is offered at 8:00 am and 10:45 am. If you are uncomfortable with coming to the building, please continue to worship using our online worship format found at [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org). **Adult Forum** will continue to meet on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**.

Reminders: *If you are sick, please stay home. Please take care of the larger community as well as yourself.*

**Worship needs to be a safe place** (or as safe as we can make it), which means wearing a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we ask that you maintain at least a 6-foot distance from those who are not part of your household. **Thank you for loving your neighbor.**

**Worship Folders** will be available on a table near the Greeters.

**Baptismal Font** will have no water, until we are able to put some in it.

**Seating in the Sanctuary** will be marked with social distancing in mind. There will be no **paper, pencils or hymnals** in the pews.

**No Singing in the Sanctuary.** The onsite worship will have music. There will be no assembly singing at onsite worship services.

**Offering** – There will be an offering plate near the entrance of the sanctuary, please drop your offering in the plate before or after worship; much like noisy offering. The offering plate outside the office will continue to be there, for those who do not come to onsite worship.

**Passing of the Peace** will take place with no physical touch or movement.

**Communion at onsite worship** is offered in one (1) kind. Only the bread will be offered. As you come into the building and receive your worship folder, you will also receive a piece of bread in a Ziplock bag. The table was bleached and dried, before the bread was broken. It is broken with gloved hands and masked face. You will be asked to use hand sanitizer before opening the bag just before the words of institution.

There will be **no Coffee Hour**.

**Restrooms** are available. They are cleaned using CDC cleaning procedure.