



Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 20, 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 our generous God who challenges us to live lives that reflect God's good news message. We are called to forgive and share in new life that is given us freely by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.
- Ⓑ Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

📖 A reading from **Jonah**:

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

☐ = Refrain



Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

**²Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

**⁴One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power. ☐**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

**⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

**⁸The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. ☐**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

☐ A reading from **Philippians**:

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil

ELW 512

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.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

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 Lord in your mercy, The people will speak, **Hear our prayer** 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 Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion New Life Lutheran Church, Spruce; Harvest Community Church, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord, in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *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 Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Bring comfort and healing to the following, including: *Susan Barnaart, Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Jim Curtis family, Colleen Endsley family, Karl Golnek, Don Granzow, Delmar Hansen, Jerry Hansen, Joe Longcor, Ron Neil, Tim Schoessel, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Traci Wales and Eve Wright*. Lord, in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

A Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. 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 We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. 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;

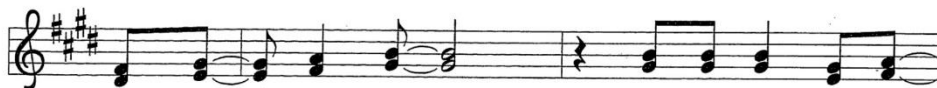


to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón y tu tro - no en él ten - drás.
take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.



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.**

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:
 We are dancing ...
 We are praying ...
 We are singing ...

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- G** Thanks be to God.

Leftovers

The last laborers to join the vineyard had spent their day being picked over. They were the hiring process leftovers. Like the last kids remaining in a gym class team selection, these laborers were for one reason or another deemed less valuable workers by the other landowners. Perhaps they were less physically capable than others. Maybe their strengths were not easily visible. Not being hired for work that day, they were standing around with no purpose or potential for growth.

But we have a generous landowner who does not overlook anyone. This landowner spends his entire day scouring the market for those who have been left behind and securing a place for them in his vineyard. He gives them value and meaning. Jesus will not rest until every lost and idle bystander has a place in the kingdom of heaven.

This radical generosity scandalizes the system that rewards people based on their merits and outputs. But Jesus rewards people of all abilities and work ethics equally. In God's commonwealth, the leftover workers have as much value as those chosen first.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was keenly aware of how people with intellectual disabilities were defined by what they couldn't do. She wanted to provide opportunities for them to develop physical fitness, display courage, and find joy on the playing field. Her vision grew into the Special Olympics movement. This inclusive and expansive glimpse into the kingdom of heaven celebrates the athletic achievements of those who are often excluded from the vineyard.

In worship, we practice leaning into Jesus' vision as we gather around the table. Regardless of our status or position, we are all on equal footing at Christ's meal. We are given the same portions of bread. We drink from the same cup. It does not matter if we arrived late or early, young or old, grateful or ungrateful. Jesus has invited each of us here. We have not been overlooked. We have been given our work for this day.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



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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 20, 2020

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 24 Views: 118 Weekly Giving: \$3,667.44 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

TODAY Adult Forum will continue a study on the book of **Acts today** 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.

BARRY COUNTY CROP WALK 2020 is on Oct 11 from 1-2 pm at Grace Lutheran Church. Please bring your own water bottle as no food or drinks will be provided due to safe social distancing. Those not desiring to walk may bring a lawn chair and support the walkers from the sidelines on Briar Hill St.

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. 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 4th look for more details to come or call Angela Pruitt at 810-348-6767.

HAVE YOU MISSED NOISY OFFERING? It's coming back, October 11th!

Do YOU miss coffee hour? GRACE CAFÉ ZOOM *is coming our way on Sunday, October 18th between worship services.* Details will be in the upcoming GraceGram.

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

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo

Lector – Chris Bush

Cantor – Kate Watson

Musicians – Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Cindy Olson, 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. **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.