



Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th and celebrates the spreading of the Good News of Emmanuel, God with us, 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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We are promised through the prophets that God will provide guidance for how to live our lives. This guidance will give us life, but we receive greater life by living in the shelter of Jesus, who has power to take away that which harms us. We are invited to experience Jesus' power and love for humanity.

Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

You Are My All in All

arr. Marilyn Ham

Cindy Olson, piano

Greeting

☐ The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray.... Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.
- G** **Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

📖 A reading from **Deuteronomy**.

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

☒ = Refrain



Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.** ☒

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.** ☒

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever.** ☒

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians**.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

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-

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.

Apostles Creed

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

☑ **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 **Radiant God**. The people will speak, **Let your light shine upon us** as the prayer response.*

Ⓐ Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence

Ⓐ For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion St. John's Lutheran Church, Baroda; Nashville Assembly of God, Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

A For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists. Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and 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).* Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need: for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray for them, including *Vickey Argo, Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Cherie Clements, Myrina Crawford (healthy pregnancy), Irene Corr family, family and friends of Joyce Domire, Allison Domke (healthy pregnancy), Erin Everly, Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Bill Halsted, Jerry Hansen, Larry Hansen, Joe Longcor, Bill Melcher, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community. (*You may share your prayers at this time*)

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord. Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music *When in Our Music God is Glorified* **arr. John Ferguson**
Cindy Olson, organ



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
- ☒ **Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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

- Ⓐ God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter
✝ keep you in peace.
- ☒ **Amen.**



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
 2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
 5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise;



and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?
 let all re - joice who have a voice to raise;



it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue:
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
 and may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Be light for the world.
- Thanks be to God.

Postlude

But the Lord is Mindful

Felix Mendelssohn
Chris Bush, piano

Could He Be the Only One?

Who: Jesus, disciples, observant go-to-worship folks honoring the sabbath. And, yes, a man with an unclean spirit. (Could he be the only such soul in the congregation?)

What: Reading holy words, the domain of scribes and scholars, and a shocking teaching given “with authority.”

Where: In the synagogue.

When: On the sabbath.

Who is this one who cried out in the congregation? Was he a scared thief creeping from his hiding place? A lanky kid exhausted from bawling outside locked doors? An old man gasping beneath piles of ill-gotten wealth? A young woman cursing heaven by day and hell by night for reasons no one dares to name? A stumbling fugitive worn down by a lifetime of running? A robust profiteer, master of deception? An unjust judge solemnly wearing a robe woven from threads of secret favors? A miser in a mansion perched above slums? A hoarder of vengeance nursing metastasized hatreds? Have you seen, met, or known any of these among the congregation?

The one with an unclean spirit cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?” (Mark 1:24). Jesus silences the unclean spirit. But Jesus will not be the destroyer. The crucified one does not crucify. He does not build and fill prisons; he sets free. He does not shun, avoid, and send away; he calls the accursed to himself. He does not condemn the sinner; he rescues and saves.

Yes, they in the synagogue that day and we in the church this day are amazed. Jesus’ teaching with authority contradicts all the rules that anchor us to a spirit of despair. Good news, indeed.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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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
January 31, 2021

Stewardship Information

Views: 238 Weekly Giving: \$5,530.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

COMMUNION OF TWO KINDS arrives for those who desire to come to the **fellowship hall**. Thanks to a donation of grape juice (wine was not available) Grace will be able to enjoy communion with bread and “wine”. Thanks to Joe Longcor and Vickey Argo for the donation. *Private Communion is available by appointment*. Please contact the church office **269.945.9414** or Pastor Ken directly for a time and day.

Please join Pastor Ken in 2021, as Grace Lutheran Church is invited to read through the entire **New Testament in Chronological Order**. Not Matthew to Revelation, but James to Revelation. You may be surprised to know that many of the New Testament Letters were composed before the Gospels were written. There is an insert provided in January’s GraceGram entitled 2021 Daily Reading Guide.

Adult Forum will continue a study on the book of **Acts** today at 10:00 am. We will continue to meet in the Gathering Area for the study.

We need your plastic shopping bags! Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

Grace Lutheran Church has suspended onsite worship. Please join us for **Sunday virtual worship** at www.grace-hastings.org. We hope that you are being blessed by our worship of God each week. The council will vote at a future date to reimplement onsite worship.

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush

Lector – Anna Scheck

Cantor – Kate Watson

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Carla Neil, Cindy Olson, Anna Scheck, Ethan Scheck, Laura Scheck and Kristi Winick

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Food Pantry

The Hastings Food Pantry is seeing an increase in clientele. As many jobs have been lost because of the new restrictions but in place with COVID 19 the food pantry believes there will be another rise in traffic to the pantry. Needs are:

Prayer

Chunky & Progressive Soups

Saltine Crackers

Boxes or packets of Beef or Chicken Rice

Cakes and Frosting

Brownies

Cans of Pineapple

When you are in the building, we ask you to wear a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we also 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.**

North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly
May 14 & 15, 2021

Grace is looking for one youth, one male and one female adult voting members to attend this virtual assembly. If interested, please contact Pastor Ken.



Look for ashes and a letter explaining how to use the ashes you receive. Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021. The worship will be an online service.

Barry Eaton District Health Department vaccine sign-up information can be found at:
www.barryeatonhealth.org (Click on "this form" at top of page, in orange section)

**Called to the Church
Triumphant
Our sister in Christ
Carol L. Morgan**



**The family invites you to a private service at
Grace Lutheran Church
February 6, 2021 at 1:00 pm.**

Looking for volunteers to recite the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. These will be used for online worship. Please contact Pastor Ken to be taped or submit it to the him through e-mail.

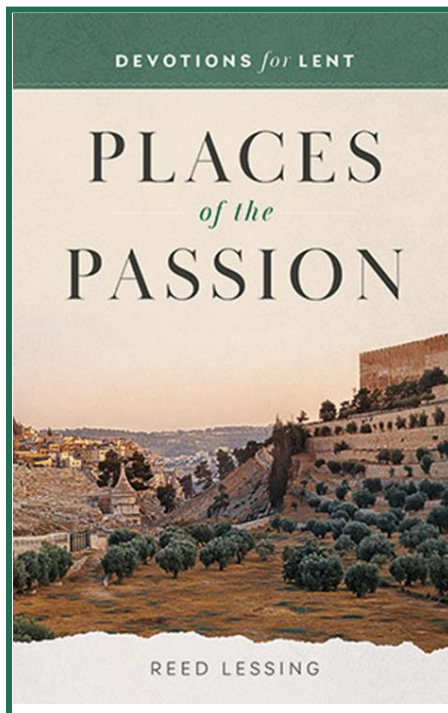
Piano & Heating

Perhaps you have heard our piano. Most people enjoy it. Maybe you have felt the heat when you come in the building. Each of these items have needed repair. The total for both repair on the heat and piano is \$3,293.00. If you would like to contribute toward these repairs, please write in the memo line of the check "repairs".

Repairs	\$3,293.00
Donations to date	<u>\$100.00</u>
Outstanding cost of repair	\$3,193.00

Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church is seeking a member to be the Treasurer for the church. For a variety of reasons Vickey Argo needed to step down from this ministry opportunity. We are thankful that she continues to serve on council. If you are interested in this position, please contact the church office at 269-945-9414.



The Outreach Committee invites you to pick up this year's Lenten Devotional.

We will journey to the places where Jesus suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. You will see that every place Jesus goes along his path to the cross hints at his ultimate mission to take our place for our redemption so that we might have a place in heaven with him forever.

Let us thank God for the gift of salvation.

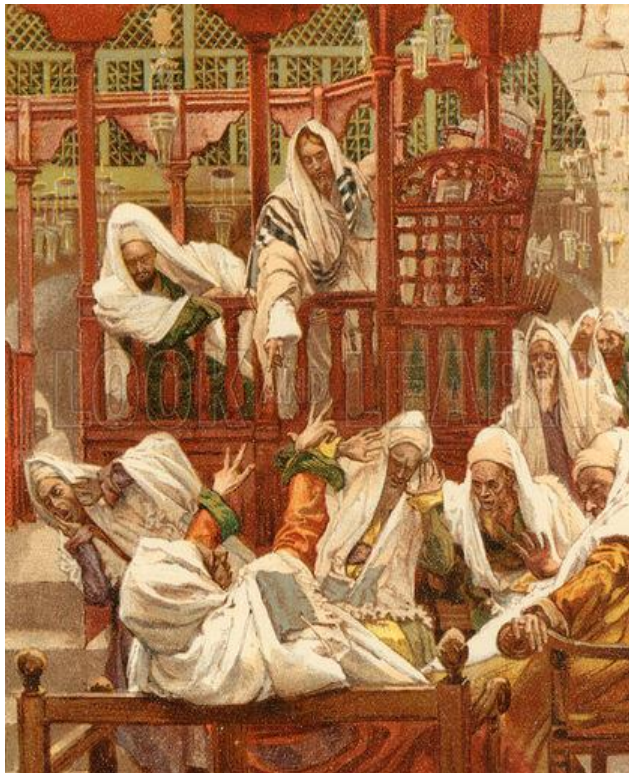
Mission Endowment Fund

- As you may remember, Grace has a Mission Endowment Fund. Money was placed in this fund, so that the interest can be used for mission work such Family Promise, sending youth to the National Youth Gathering and other missions. Please submit any mission proposal by February 9th, 6 pm to Margaret Wood's church mailbox.



You are invited to share a little love with our homebound members. Join us on **Sunday, February 7 at 1:00 pm**, as we travel to our homebound members homes. Our snow date is Saturday, Feabraury 13 at 1:00 pm.

Know the good news that



*Jesus gives life to those who
are afflicted.*