



**Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan**

Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021

Lent is a season of preparation and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of the extravagance of God. The music of the season reflects our need to prepare for God's forgiveness and renewal, which draws us into God's forgiving action toward humanity and all of creation.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We come and worship God who promises us life. We may be faced with death, just as Jesus suffered and died, but God promises to walk with us and not abandon us. Just as God walks with us in our time of suffering, we are invited to walk with others who may be going through times of trial and hardship.

Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

My Song is Love Unknown

*arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
Cindy Olson, piano*

Greeting

- ☞ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens, and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- ☞ **And also with you.**



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray.... O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life.
- G** **Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

📖 A reading from **Genesis**.

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

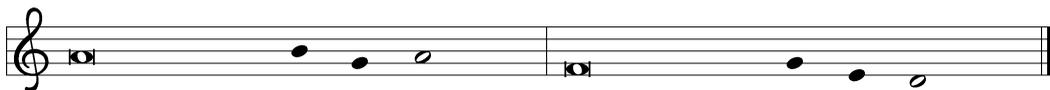
🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time

☒ = Refrain



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.



Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them; but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

**²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever! ☒**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

**²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

**³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" ☒

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Silence for reflection



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

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

A Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

A Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion St. Peter Lutheran Church, Battle Creek; Our Lady of Great Oak, Bellevue; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Lord, in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

A All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. 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).* Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression, including *Vickey Argo, Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Cherie Clements, Myrina Crawford (healthy pregnancy), Allison Domke (healthy pregnancy), Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Joe Longcor, Bill Melcher, Darlene Olson, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. *(You may share your prayers at this time)*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

P We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

Thy Word

by Michael W Smith /Amy Grant

Offering Song

Goodness is Stronger Than Evil

ELW 721



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

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.**

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.

Sending Song

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

ELW 857

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Dismissal

- ☐ Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- ☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Come to the Water

Capital University, Chapel Choir

A Love That Lets Go

Sometimes we are just not to be trusted with the task of loving. When we really, really love someone or something, our fingers can grasp too tightly, and our fists clench a little too firmly. For fear of losing what we love, we can squeeze the life out of what we were trying to protect.

Today, Jesus announces the trajectory of his mission: he is going to be put to death after great suffering and rejection, and he is going to be raised from the dead on the third day. This announcement sends Peter's hands reaching out to hold onto Jesus with fierce firmness. Peter doesn't want to lose the one he loves, and he goes so far as to shame and criticize Jesus for his words.

Have you ever acted like Peter, letting fear of losing someone you love thwart your ability to actually love them?

When Jesus says that those who try to save their lives are going to lose their lives, he is talking about our instinct to hold on too tightly to the things that we love. Somewhere in this move, our love actually becomes control. In the moment when the instinct to control takes hold, love and life are lost.

Jesus' words invite us to back up. We acknowledge our tight grip on God, on each other, on our own hearts. We let a little air in to those places where our tight grip has been suffocating life. We gather to worship a God who loves this world so deeply that God would rather die at our hands than coerce us into reciprocating that love. Today, we come to know God's love, which never seeks to control or pin us down, but which breathes life into the world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 28, 2021

Stewardship Information

Views: 190

Weekly Giving: \$1,930.00

Budget Amount: \$4,227.24



Being Carried by God: *Please Stay*

Our Wednesday night Holden Evening Prayer service continues this Wednesday. Life as we all know can be difficult, painful and lonely. Not only do we have each other, but we have God who helps us through these times of trial and hardships. Know the goodness of God's love.

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.

When do we get to return to public worship at the church building?

We will be gathering for worship when
the positivity rate is 3.0%.

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.

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.**

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.

The Rack

The Rack is a new community service for the Hastings area. The **free clothing** store is at the beginning of its operation. Items at this time are limited to winter outdoor wear partly because there is no director for this ministry. If you are at all interested in clothing ministry, please contact Pastor Ken.

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me."

Matthew 25:35 & 36

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush

Lector – Laura Scheck

Cantor – Kate Watson

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Vickey Argo, Kim Domke, Carla Neil, Cindy Olson, Anna Scheck, Laura Scheck, Kate Watson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

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)

**THE 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE
AND IN YOUR MAILBOXES AT CHURCH.**

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”. Thank you for your support of keeping our ministry moving forward to share Christ with all.

Repairs	\$3,293.00
Donations to date	<u>\$600.00</u>
Outstanding cost of repair	\$2,693.00

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

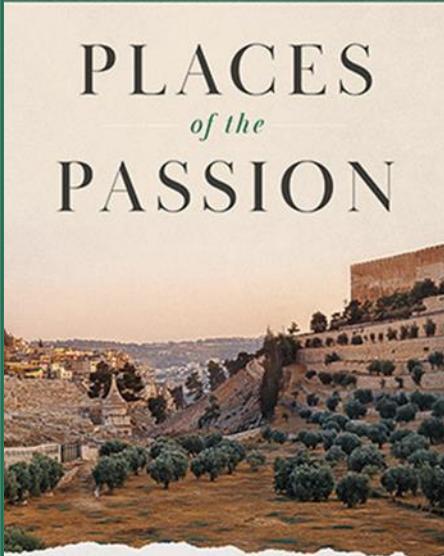
Cans of Pineapple

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.

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.

DEVOTIONS *for* LENT

PLACES
of the
PASSION



REED LESSING

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.

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

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

Grace youth and family is hosting our annual Spring bulb sale with a twist! Fill out an order form that was sent out with the GraceGram or call the church office to place order. Please make your payment of \$10.00 per plant by Thursday, April 1st to a homebound member of our church community. Spring surprises will be delivered Easter weekend. You can also provide input/suggestions on who you would like to see included in our surprise visits by adding their name in the space provided or contacting us by phone @ (269) 945-9414. *You may still purchase flowers for yourself. Pick up Easter Sunday.*



Is there a ministry you would like to see started at Grace Lutheran Church?

Here are some ideas that are being considered listed below. Maybe you could add a couple other ideas. Please share your ideas with a Council member or write them down and drop them off at the church office.

Host a community garden (we are talking with Emmanuel Episcopal about this already)	Build a picnic pavilion for outdoor gatherings and meals	Return to going on mission trips
Have the parking lot repaved and paid for	Hold quarterly dinners for the neighborhood	Enhance the lighting in the sanctuary
Reduce our carbon footprint by installing solar panels on our roof	Cultivate or hire a youth ministry leader (we've had success with this in the past)	Start a mentorship program between youth and older adults
Hold regular forums on diversity and inclusiveness	Collaborate with other Lutheran and non-Lutheran congregations in youth ministry	Rebuild / strengthen relationships within the congregation



*Pick up the burdens of others
and walk with them.*