



Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 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 today to worship Christ who lived in trusting obedience to God giving us salvation. Jesus teaches about seeds that are planted in the ground and shares how death must come to that the promise of a new life can be accomplished. We are invited to realize that God writes a new covenant onto our hearts allowing us to know the gift of salvation given to us through Jesus Christ.

Announcements

<i>Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.</i>

Gathering Music

Moonlight Sonata

by Ludwig von Beethoven

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.**



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers.
- ☑ **Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

📖 A reading from Jeremiah.

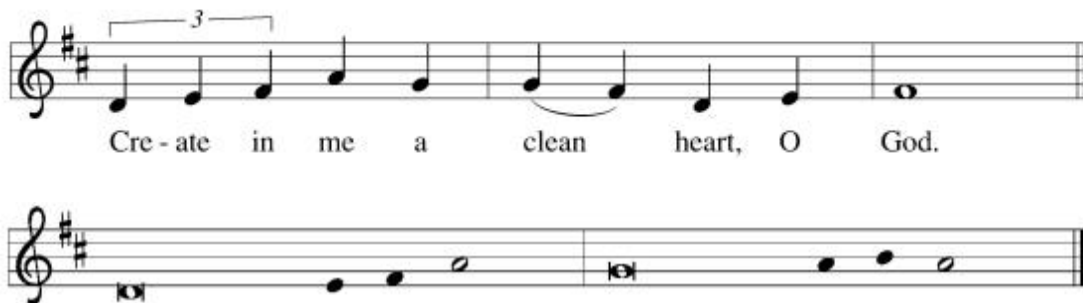
The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

 = Refrain




Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**


³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.** 

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**


⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice** 

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.** 

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

📖 A reading from **Hebrews**.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

📖 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.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
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.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

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

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

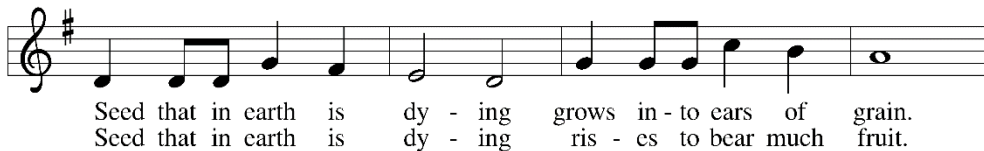
☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection



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

- A** You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Immanuel Lutheran Church, Big Rapids; Peace United Methodist, Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord, in your mercy.

G Hear our prayer.

- A** You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Lord, in your mercy.

G Hear our prayer.

- A** You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. 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** You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve., 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, Bill Halsted, Joe Longcor, Bill Melcher, 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** Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. *(You may share your prayers at this time)*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Lord, in your mercy.

☛ **Hear our prayer.**

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

☛ **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

Amazing Love

by Singin' Praise Kids

singers Clyde, Kate, Lexie Watson, guitar, Kim Domke

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

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.


Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

P God the creator, strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter  keep you in peace.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Kyrie Eleison

W&P 81

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Last time



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the
2 That we may live out your im -
3 For peace in our hearts, for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
passioned re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

G Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Hebrew Dance

by Kimball
Grace Notes Bell Choir

Life Not Thwarted by Death

On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our heads, allowing our truth to be exposed: we are mortal; we are dust. We spoke a confession, and more and more truth bubbled up, truth that so often is suppressed: we are broken; we have fallen short; we are implicated in the muck of systemic sin. On Ash Wednesday we agreed: we are done putting on airs.

Jesus has never been one for putting on airs, and so today we find him living the consequence of a truthful, authentic life. He has raised Lazarus from the dead, he has attracted a following, and the religious authorities are afraid for themselves and their people living under Roman occupation that Jesus is about to bring Rome down upon their heads. They are actively seeking to silence Jesus for the sake of the nation.

We meet Jesus today facing down the choice either to bury his truth in order to stay safe or to let the truth of his life be known and therefore risk being buried. Jesus chooses to let his truth and his light shine, knowing he will be buried for it. Despite the way it troubles his soul, he is clear that this is what he has come to do. Like the wheat seed that dies to create life in a new stalk of grain, Jesus' life will not be thwarted by the threat of death.

When you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ's life; the seed of your life was buried in Christ. When you dine at Christ's table, you take his life into your own. His fearless, free, unearthed, burgeoning life is yours. You are free, O church, from the work of appeasing others, of contorting yourself to stay safe, of quieting your unique and therefore potent voice, of finding creative ways to hide the light that is in you. Your life will not be thwarted by death. So, live.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: 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
March 21, 2021

Stewardship Information

Views:210

Weekly Giving: \$3,850.00

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.



Being Carried by God: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Our Wednesday night Holden Evening Prayer service continues this Wednesday. This winter we experienced temperatures below zero, frozen water, snow feet deep and earth as hard as rock. Yet, we are able to experience God's grace. Let us allow ourselves to be carried by God's **grace.**

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>\$1,700.00</u>
Outstanding cost of repair	\$1,593.00

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 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.*

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.

Read the New Testament in Chronological Order. Call the office to get your copy of the 2021 Daily Reading Guide.

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.**

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%.

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.

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.

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 – Mark Anton

Lector – Jamie Heise

Cantor – Jack Vos

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

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

Grace Notes Bell Choir – Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Leona Frost, Vicki MacKelkar, Lisa Pohl, Jan Rounds and Anita Shaw

Pastor – Ken Scheck

SAVE THE DATE!

**GOOD FRIDAY
CROSS WALK
APRIL 2ND**

Our Undeveloped Land

Council decided that, for now, we will maintain the property, cleaning it up twice a year, and work toward improving the path so that users can meander and meditate. Thank you to members of the Team for their work and dedication to Grace!



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

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

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

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



Let us see Jesus!