

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 1, 2021

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! Today we hear that God promises to gather us into the kingdom of God. Even though most of us were not God's first chosen, we are able to share in God's grace by the salvation given through Jesus Christ. We are called to share this good news with the world.

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Come Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Becky Slagle Mayo

Greeting

Please rise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P** The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

- A** Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
- C** **For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!**

- P** All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
- C** **Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.**

- A** All colors and races give hearty praise!
- C** **Let us share your love with all. Amen**

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied.
- ☪ **Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

📖 A reading from **Exodus**.

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'"¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

☪ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78

²³So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴**raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.

²⁶**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

²⁷raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

²⁸**letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**

²⁹So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

📖 A reading from **Ephesians**.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Spoken*

Alleluia!

Alleluia. Alleluia. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 6:24-35

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work. Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Hymn of Day

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **Your mercy is great.***

- Ⓐ Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. We especially ask you to be with our ministry partners *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Settlement Lutheran Church, Gowen, United Methodist, Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☒ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God.

☒ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. 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), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Hear us, O God.

☒ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world, we especially ask your presence with *Doris Allarding, Vickey Argo, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Joyce Daugherty, Pat Wales Depew, Ray Depew, Mike Fruth, Megan Germain, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Larry Hansen, Mike Hoppe, Jay Kimble, Bill Melcher, Darlene Olson, Corrina Palmer, Hope Palmer, Rick Palmer, Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, Michael Stiffler, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr. Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Hear us, O God.

☒ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ.

(You may share your prayers at this time)

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.
- ☒ **Your mercy is great.**
- Ⓟ We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☒ **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.)

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for the blessing of your presence.
- ☒ **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that our lives may reflect your generosity, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ **And also with you.**

☞ Lift up your hearts.

☛ **We lift them to the Lord.**

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☛ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by the glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name forever.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim that Jesus is among us.

☛ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

☛ **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.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Hymns during Distribution

<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	WOV 699
<i>Father, We Thank You</i>	WOV 704
<i>You are the Seed</i>	WOV 753

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy and fed us at your table.

G **Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

P 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.

G **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Holy Manna

Setting by John Carter

Hungry for More

They were hungry, but they didn't know what they were hungry for. Their longing compelled them to cross the sea and comb through the villages in search of the one who could meet their deepest desires. They had seen the sign, after all—the baskets of leftover bread, the impossible abundance of fish. Surely, they must find the source to have their needs fulfilled once and for all.

Perhaps we too are hungry—for security, for certainty, for power, for recognition, for the simple assurance that we are good enough in a world that always seems to demand more. We too may find ourselves searching for the one who can calm our spirits or offer us those things on which our hearts are set. We cry out with the crowd, “Give us this bread always” (John 6:34). Care for us. Feed us. Help us. Reassure us. We have seen what you can do. Show us this sign again so that we may believe.

But God gives us more than bread; indeed, God gives us more than whatever we think we most desire. Jesus takes our questions and those things we think we need and redirects us to himself—the source of all life for the world. We ask for the things we most crave. Jesus offers us abundant life. We ask for what we can comprehend. Jesus gives us the promises of God that pass all understanding.

John's gospel invites us to dwell with Jesus in the mysteries of God. Not to understand exactly. Not to have our fill of the things we demand. But to abide with God. To be wrapped in the promises of the one who has been feeding the hungry and sustaining life since the very beginning, giving us life that cannot be earned but is simply received through Jesus.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 58 Views: 52 Weekly Giving: 4,210.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

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.

Adult Forum begins again today. We gather in the overflow room and continue the study on the book of **Genesis** at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

Barry County Relay For Life is this Saturday. Join us for this event at Tyden Park in Hastings from 11:00a.m. - 11:00p.m. This is a free event for all participates.

Seeking readers, fellowship providers (make coffee and lemonade for our outside fellowship time), ushers, greeters and Assisting Ministers.

Annual picnic is on Sunday, August 15, 2021. Join us for a time of fellowship, tasty food, and a walk in the woods after the 10:45 am worship service. Amy and Phil Poholski have graciously opened their home for this event. They live at 6810 Highlandview Drive, Middleville, MI. There is a signup sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. You are invited to bring a dish to pass. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, iced tea and lemonade are provided. If you desire something else to quench your thirst, BYOB. Please bring your own lawn chair and comfy shoes if you are going on the prayer walk. Our graduates will be there, so we can send them off with our love.

You are invited to wear your mask if it makes you more comfortable. *If you are nervous about joining us in person, please continue to worship online. Do not feel that you must come into the building.*
Sincerely, Worship and Music Committee

Grace is seeking a Parish Administrator, if you have any people that might be interested in this ministry opportunity, please call the church office.

8:00 am

**Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Ken Scheck
Musician – Jeanette Markwart
Pastor – Ken Scheck**

10:45 am

**Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Carla Neil
Cantor – Ken Scheck
Musician – Jeanette Markwart
Pastor – Ken Scheck**