

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 13, 2022

Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

Lent is a season of contrition and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of penitence. The music of the season reflects our need for repentance and renewal, which is our effort to turn, again, towards God.

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Arise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font.

Confession and Forgiveness

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

☑ **Amen**

☐ In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☐ God at the margins,

☑ **We have wandered far from your home;
again and again, we lose our way.**

We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.

**We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.**

Do not remember the deeds of our past,

but turn our faces toward the future,

where your forgiveness is sure,

your welcome is clear,

and your love overflows.



☐ Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ, leading you from death into life.

☑ **Amen**

Gathering Song

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

Greeting

☐ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

☑ **now is the day of salvation.**

☐ 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.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray..... God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world.

☑ **Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

📖 A reading from **Genesis**.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.

Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**²When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

**⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

**⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

**⁸My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

**¹⁰Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

**¹²Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

**¹⁴Wait for the LORD and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17--4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

📖 A reading from **Philippians**.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.

Gospel Acclamation Spoken

Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

Mothering God, You Gave me Birth

ELW 735

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Lord in your mercy**, The assembly responds in prayer. **Lord hear our prayer.***

A Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

A You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Empower our church leaders to speak this truth especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion All Saints Lutheran Church, Mason, Grace Brethren Church, Lake Odessa, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

A You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving (*especially*) *Doris Allerding, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, The family of Sandy Burzynski, Ron Bush, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Michael Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, Larry Hansen, Judy Heil, Jill & Yancy Hobert, Mike Hoppe, Mindi Longcor, Bill Melcher, Ron Neil, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Phil Poholski (prostate cancer), Ken Plourde, Mike Shoemaker, Susie Smith, George Ulrich Jr., Eve Wright, Lynnze.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ You kindle faith that moves us into action. Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation. Empower Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, and parents who share their faith with younger generations. Give us all a renewed sense of vocation.

*(You may share your prayers at this time)
Here other intercessions may be offered.*

- Ⓐ You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. Lord in your mercy,
Ⓒ **hear our prayer.**
- ⒫ Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Ⓒ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.

Sharing the Peace

- ⒫ The peace of Christ be with you always.
Ⓒ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of the newborn Lord with one another.)

After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,
Ⓒ **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ 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.**

☞ 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.

☛ **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

☞ Come to Jesus, our host, and our meal.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.

Please remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

☛ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

☛ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

After the Mission Minutes are shared, we arise in body or spirit, as the pastor shares the blessing.

Blessing

- ☐ God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlastings.
- ☑ Amen.

Sending Song

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

Dismissal

- ☐ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ☑ Thanks be to God.

The Hard Way

In Luke's gospel, Jesus sets a course toward Jerusalem, even though he knows what he will face there. His gospel of forgiveness and inclusion will prove intolerable to the powers of the empire, eventually resulting in his execution. Still, when he is warned, he responds, "I must be on my way" (Luke 13:33), and laments for the city that will kill him. Jesus is not naive about violence and conflict in the world. He heads straight for it anyway, knowing what he is called to do.

We are often faced with choices in which doing the right thing means some inconvenience or hardship. Spiritual disciplines during Lent offer practice for rising to these challenges, such as giving up single-use plastics in order to limit our impact on the planet. On a deeper level, moving toward racial justice as a country asks people to learn more about the continuing impact of hundreds of years of slavery and segregation, and to make choices and implement policies that address this continuing legacy.

Where do we get the resolve to do the right thing—even when it means taking the hard way?

Perhaps doing the right thing even when it's hard begins as it did for Jesus in his prayer of lament for Jerusalem: with honesty and an openly broken heart. As a cry of sadness or anger, lament roots us in the communal bonds of shared grief and turns us toward the deeper power and justice of God. Lament is an ancient and enduring form of prayer, well represented in the prayer book of the Hebrew Bible, the Psalms. It is a raw and honest expression of grief and rage without excuses, without explanations. God hears, God sees. God is with us in the sorrow, and in the resolve to be more compassionate and just.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 55

Weekly Giving: \$4,215.40

Outreach/Family Promise: \$966.00

Social Activities: \$168.75

Views: 88

Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

Youth: \$20.00

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the one who goes to Jerusalem, and dies for us, taking away our sin.

Lenten devotionals entitled *The Road Back to God* are available in the Gathering Area thanks to the Community Outreach Committee.

Wednesday Night Dinners to be served at 6:00 before the 7pm **Lenten service**. This Wednesday we are having a Taco Dinner. **Special Music for worship is the Barry County Flute Choir.**

New member classes continue today at 9:30 am. This class will replace the Adult Forum during Lent. Come and learn about the Lutheran Church for the first time or refresh your knowledge of what our church believes.

Processional Cross. If you are interested in bearing the cross, please contact any Worship Committee member: Kim Domke, Karen Halstead, Linda Melcher, Cindy Olson, Laura Scheck, Traci Wales, Kate Watson, Kristi Winick, and Pastor Ken.

Easter Bulb Flowers are available for \$10.00 each. Look for order forms in the Gathering Area if you need one. Please place on Brenda's desk in the office with payment. Orders due April 8th.

Pasty Sale: Orders due by Thursday, March 17th St. Patrick's Day. Unbaked are \$7.00 and Baked are \$8.00 each. *Flouring mixing is Thursday, 3/24 @ 9:00 am. Pasty Making is Saturday 3/26 @ 7:00 am.*

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Mark Anton

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Watson Family