

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
April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 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

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

C **Amen**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God at the margins,

C **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.



P 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.

C **Amen**

Greeting

- A** Behold, now is the acceptable time;
G **now is the day of salvation.**
- P** 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.
G **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray..... Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
- G** **Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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.

Grace Singers (10:45)

As Winter Days Grow Longer

Welsh melody
Text by Mary Louise Bringle

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
 ²¹the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

📖 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 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

**²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

📖 A reading from **Philippians**.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Fifth Sunday in Lent Page 5

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

John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

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** Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, Harvest Community Church, Lake Odessa, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations. 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick. We especially lift before you: *Doris Allerding, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, Wally Burzynski, Ron Bush, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Michael Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, the birth of Rose Carolyn Habben, Larry Hansen, Judy Heil, Jill & Yancy Hobert, Mike Hoppe, Paul Kuhlman, Mindi Longcor, Kinsley McManawy, Bill Melcher, Ron Neil, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Phil Poholski (prostate cancer), Ken Plourde, Margie Schaffer, Mike Shoemaker, Susie Smith, George Ulrich Jr., Carol Vos (cancer), Eve Wright, Lynnze*. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued (*especially*). Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism.

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

- Ⓐ Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. Merciful God,
Ⓒ **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 everlasting.
- ☩ **Amen.**

Sending Song

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Processional Cross. If you are interested in bearing the cross, please contact any Worship Committee member.

Bowling Event. Youth and Family Committee invites everyone to the church for Pizza at 12 noon on April 30th. After pizza and discussion, we will be going to the bowling alley. Please sign up by April 24th. Youth 18 and younger bowl free.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. Like everything else, pricing keeps going up. Orders due May 11, 2022, with pick-up on Saturday, May 14th.

Rummage Sale. We are looking for workers to help set up, run, and share some time for a rummage sale, which will help raise funds for the victims of war in Ukraine.

Open Your Hand

“You always have the poor with you,” Jesus told the disciple who complained about the extravagance of Mary’s anointing (John 12:8). It’s not a callous dismissal. In fact, he is likely quoting Deuteronomy 15:11, which continues: “I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’”

No one has ever lived in a world that has solved the crisis of poverty. It can be disheartening to see the same social problems we have addressed for years continuing to grow.

Throughout Jesus’ life and teaching, he repeatedly offered examples of our ongoing responsibility to care for each other. “You will always have the poor with you” may feel deflating when we focus on *always*, but what if we put the emphasis on *with*? How are we *with* people who are poor, in diverse communities of various experiences, incomes, needs, and insights?

We live in a time and place of considerable financial instability without much room for error. One health crisis or job loss can sink us into poverty, so we need each other. Mary’s extravagant generosity shows us we are not on our own. As members of the body of Christ, we are in this together. We can let generosity flow through us because God pours life into us, fragrant and overflowing, bursting with possibility.

We pray not for “*my* daily bread” but for “*our* daily bread” (Matthew 6:11), so we must be *with* each other, to share, to give and receive, to love and be loved. We are children of a God who, like Mary with her perfume, does not hold back but lets love flow. This love flows richly through us, through the body of Christ that gathers together and cares for each other and for others. Together we have enough.

From sundaysandseasons.com.
Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
Worship service
at 7 pm
April 14, 2022

Cross Walk
Good Friday
9 am
April 15, 2022

Good Friday - Tenebrae
(DARKNESS)
Worship service at 7 pm
April 15, 2022

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.**

Grace Singers are practicing today after the 10:45 worship service, join us as we prepare to sing for the March 30 Lenten Wednesday night worship service, and several worship services on Sundays.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 54
Weekly Giving: \$4,092.00

Views: 92
Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

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 anointed one who walks with us in all stages of life. Let us know this grace of God.

Wednesday Night Dinners to be served at 6:00 before the 7pm **Lenten service**. This Wednesday we are having Soups, Corn bread, Veggies, and dip for dinner. **Special Music for worship is presented by Kate Watson.**

New member class continues 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.

T-shirt Material Collection. Donated t-shirts can be placed in the box in the coat room.

A Gospel Worship Service on May 1, 2022. We will gather for worship only at 10 am, as we invite the community to join us for a special worship service and Quilt Show. We hope you can join us for this time of celebration and enjoy the beauty of the artists. We will also have a meal after the worship service, please sign up. We hope you invite your friends to join us at this unique event.

Congregational Care is looking for some help in welcoming our new members. If you would like to donate items, please contact Laura Scheck. The committee likes to provide a welcome basket for new members.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Whales
Lector – Joe Longcor
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Diane & Doug Neeb