

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

September 18, 2022

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

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! Let us celebrate God's presence among us at all times. We know the unique gift we have of God meeting our every need. Let us give praise to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Greeting

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

- ☐ The love of our Creator, revealed by Christ Jesus our Lord and sustained through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770

Opening Sentences

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

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

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

Song of Praise

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray.... God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another.
- ☑ **Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

📖 A reading from **Amos**.

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 113

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

**²Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for evermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

**⁴The LORD is high above all nations;
God’s glory above the heavens.**

⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

**⁶but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

**⁸enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

☒ A reading from **1 Timothy**.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, O Lord

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights
 of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
 of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the
 deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
 dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.
 that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by
 acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your
 fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
 church is built, and the earth is filled with your
 glo - ry.

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to **Luke**.

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection, please rise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day

Lord of Light

ELW 688

Prayers

*You may sit or kneel for prayer. The prayer response after each petition is, **God of grace.** The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer.***

- Ⓐ As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. Guide and watch over *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Our Lady of Great Oak, Bellevue; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. Be with those who safeguard the world, *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. Provide for those in any need *especially Jenny Anderson, Veronica Baarson, Greg Benda, Marc Benda, Matt Bolton, Walter Brown, Keith Busheé, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Jeff and Sue Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Charlene Hall, Larry Hansen, Mike Hoppe, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Doug Mephem, Susie Smith, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), Cheryl Wilke, and Jenny.* God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace.

☞ Receive our prayer.

☞ Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☞ Amen.

Sharing the Peace

☞ The peace of Christ be with you.

☞ And also with you.

(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it.

☞ Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Thanksgiving Prayer

☞ Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

☞ We praise you, O God.

☞ Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise. We bless you, O God.

☞ We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

☞ We thank you, O God.

☞ 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. Remembering love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

☞ We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

☞ Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. 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

☞ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.

☞ Thanks be to God.

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Songs

Be Thou my Vision

ELW 793

Let us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Here is Bread

ELW 483

Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed.

☞ Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☩ Be strengthened with the power of God, ✠ the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

☩ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595

Dismissal

☩ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Dave Neeb

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – The Freedlunds

The Grace of Confusion

In today's gospel, Jesus tells a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that ends with an unsettling moral: "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes" (Luke 16:9).

Is Jesus being ironic or sincere? Do the characters in the story somehow represent our relationship with God? Are we supposed to emulate the dishonest steward? This text is filled with questions. If you find Jesus' words today perplexing, even baffling, don't worry—you are in good company. Both the details of the parable itself and the lesson Jesus is drawing from it have vexed and puzzled generations of the best interpreters, theologians, and preachers.

There are many plausible ways to explain what is happening and what it means for our lives as Christians that might be explored in your assembly today. At the same time, scriptures like this are a reminder that the life of discipleship does not always come with easy answers and neatly packaged meanings. The gospels frequently report moments when Jesus' disciples simply could not understand what he was saying to them or profoundly misinterpreted his meaning.

The value of the community you join today does not come from the perfect understandings of either the assembly or its leaders. It comes from the one who continues to speak even when we do not understand, who daily affirms God's love for us through the waters of baptism, who offers his own body and blood at the table each week for those who are still struggling and learning what it means to be his disciples—and that includes all of us. In short, the value of the community you join today comes from a Lord committed to leading us as disciples, even when we are unclear of the way.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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If you have any announcements, events, projects, or community activities, that need to be included in the bulletin, please send them to parishadmin@grace-hastings.org. Sharing as much detail as possible helps ensure your announcement is complete. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

GraceGram Email List If you would like to receive your GraceGram via email instead of a printed copy, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area, call the church office, or email Brenda at parishadmin@grace-hastings.org. We are starting a new email list from scratch as there have been many email changes since the list was first compiled. We will start emailing GraceGrams with the upcoming October edition.

Prayer requests can be written down on the podium as you enter the sanctuary. It is located near the bookshelf. When you write your request, the assisting minister will add it to the prayers.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 52	Views: 94
Weekly Giving: \$2,796.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed \$3,342.00	
Renew Campaign Received \$ <u>-500.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding \$2,842.00	

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 FORGIVES each and every one of us, even the scoundrels among us.

Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. As you can tell by the above numbers, we have paid off all of these items. Now we enter into the Renewal phase of the campaign which has a goal of raising \$4842.00 toward a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again for your continued generosity.

Congregational Care will meet **TOMORROW** Monday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Varkula. Thank you.

Heritage Sunday on Sunday, October 30. We will be gathering together for a combined 10:00 service celebrating Reformation Sunday. There will be a meal directly following the service where you are encouraged to bring a dish to share you feel represents your heritage. Come join the fun!

Turkeyville Trip The Turkeyville trip will be October 8 for those who have signed up.

Adopt-A-Highway Adopt-A-Highway will take place on Saturday, September 24. We'll meet here at Grace at 8:00 a.m. and we should be back around 10:00 a.m. Sign up is in the Gathering Area. Questions? Please contact Joe Longcor. Thank you.

Books for Kids Thank you to all for your donations to our Books for Kids campaign. We had another successful year and collected \$500.

Trunk-or-Treat Save the date for Trunk-or-Treat Monday, October 31st. We look forward to having lots of fun. If you see a good sale on candy, we are accepting donations. Thank you.

American Red Cross CPR, AED and First Aid classes are being offered at Grace on Friday, Sept 23 from 8:30- 3pm. **FREE** AED and CPR awareness class also offered. See details on bulletin board or talk with Kim Domke.

Disability Learning Day will be held on Saturday, October 22 from 9:30-3:30 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage. For more information, please see the flyer in the Gathering Area for more information.