

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
November 20, 2022

Christ the King

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Christ the King is the end of the season for the Christian calendar. Today's color is white representing the purity and glory due Jesus our king. We praise God for our servant king, who stands at the end of time welcoming us into the eternal kingdom of God's reign.

Today we gather as the body of Christ. We wear the crown of baptism and trace his royal sign — the holy cross — over our brows and bodies. We leave here strengthened to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned.

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Greeting

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

- P** Grace be with you from the Holy Trinity; our true God, who comes to us with the love of a parent, redeemer, and upholder.
- G** **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW 841

Greeting

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

- P** As the earth shows signs of seasons end, the life and peace we share in the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer be with you all.
- G** **And also with you.**

- A** We thank you, O God, for still creating.
- G** **We bless you for the abundant harvest you provide.**

- P** We are blessed with your mercy and power of life.
- G** **All of creation gives you praise.**

- A** We see the diversity of your creation.
- G** **We give you praise for the hues you show forth today and for all time. Amen**

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory.
- Ⓒ **Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

Ⓔ A reading from **Jeremiah**.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Ⓔ The Word of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

**¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

📖 A reading from **Colossians**.

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all

the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

- ☐ The Word of the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or in spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

ACS 971



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴[[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

*Silence for reflection. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*

Song of the Day

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

Prayers

*You may sit or kneel for prayer. The prayer response after each petition is, **We come before you, O Lord.** The assembly prays singing: **Oh, draw me, Lord, and I'll run after you.***

☞ United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence

A We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. We pray for *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Immanuel Lutheran Church, Suttons Bay; Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. We come before you, O Lord.

C **Oh, draw me, Lord (3x), and I'll run after You.**

A We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. We come before you, O Lord.

C **Oh, draw me, Lord (3x), and I'll run after You.**

A We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people. 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)*. We come before you, O Lord.

C **Oh, draw me, Lord (3x), and I'll run after You.**

A We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. We especially pray for those who we name before you *especially Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Keith Busheé, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, The Family of Doug Mephem, Carolyn Moffit, Terri Neeb, Ron Neil, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), Maryellen Wammock, and Cheryl Wilke*. We come before you, O Lord.

C **Oh, draw me, Lord (3x), and I'll run after You.**

A We pray for this assembly. Guide our pastor/s, deacon/s, and council members in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for all who have died in the faith (*especially*). Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. We come before you, O Lord.

C **Oh, draw me, Lord (3x), and I'll run after You.**

P Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Arise in body or in spirit

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

☐ 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.

☑ **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.

☐ Remembering God's 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.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Songs

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

ELW 857

Deep River

ACS 951

Refrain

Deep riv - er, my home is o - ver Jor - dan,

deep riv - er, Lord, I want to cross o-ver in-to camp-ground.

1 Oh, don't you want to go to that gos - pel feast, that
2 Oh, when I get to heav-en, I'll . . . take my seat, and

Refrain

prom - ised land where all is peace? Oh,
cast my crown at Je - sus' feet. Oh,

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.
- ☒ **Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- ☐ God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
- ☒ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
- ☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
Lector – Paul Kuhlman
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Bill & Lorraine Freedlund

The Cross as Hinge

We end the church year in an unconventional fashion: at the cross. Today's gospel seems a strange capstone to the liturgical calendar, and that is intentional. This is because Christ the King Sunday is not a capstone at all, but rather a hinge that opens into the new year. We end at the cross because that is where we see most fully the great, culminating example of where God is willing to go to show love for humanity. We end at the cross because in the crucifixion we see Christ's enthronement as the one that nothing, not even death, can destroy.

Christ's kingship lies not in his exultation in glory but in his being raised upon the instrument of death from which God causes life to spring. The cross of Christ is the tree of life. But this life is hidden in what appears to be anything but life. Christ is not king because he conquers all in self-preserving might and force but because he conquers all in self-giving grace, and in doing so, he proves that he cannot be conquered even by violence.

Now we stand ready to step again onto Advent soil, where new life, hope, and possibility are germinating. We must remember, as we prepare to hear once again in the story of Jesus' birth and life, that God's glory is not found in power and might but in humility and sacrifice, in one willing to give his life for his friends, his enemies, and the criminal hanging beside him. That is the kingdom of God: that place where the friend, the enemy, and even the one rightly condemned receive the grace and forgiveness of Christ. For that, we praise Christ as king!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Christmas Eve Service begins at 5:30 on Saturday, December 24th.

PASTY PICK UP - DATE CHANGE Due to the funerals taking place this Saturday. If you ordered pasties, please pick them up on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 between 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

Adult Forum continues to gather in the Gathering Area and will continue its study on the book of **Psalms** at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

ADVENT begins next week. You are invited to join us for a special service on the first three Wednesdays. We gather for a meal of soup that begins at 6:30 followed by worship at 7:15 pm on November 30. This year we are having ***Holden Evening Prayer with a Flare!*** We hope you can join us for this unique worship and educational event.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 64	Views: 280
Weekly Giving: \$1,185.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed \$2,200.00	
Renew Campaign Received \$ <u>100.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding \$2,100.00	

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 first loved us so much that he died on the cross for us.

Anyone interested in participating in the Intergenerational Christmas Program on December 11th at the 10:45 Worship Service is asked to contact Pastor Ken.

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.

God's Creation 2023 Calendars. Available for \$5.00 each.

Heating and Cooling Just a reminder as the seasons change. If you change the thermostats in the building, please push the run button when finished heating the space to the desired level. Thank you for your cooperation.

Save the Date Jesus Birthday Party after the 10:45 Worship Service on Sunday, December 11. We will be having a lasagna dinner. Please sign up so we have enough food for everyone.

Caroling for the Homebound Meet at the church at 1:00pm, as we set out to spread some cheer on December 11, 2022. Carpooling is available if it desired.

Christmas Food Baskets There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for those who wish to contribute the food basket campaign. Donations need to be dropped off at the church by Sunday, December 18. Monetary donations are also being accepted. Please place your donation in the collection plate and identify it by marking "Christmas Food Baskets" on the envelope.