

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://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  
February 5, 2023

# Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

## February 5, 2023

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

### Gathering Music

### Welcome

*Arise in body or spirit.*

### Opening Sentences

- P** The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- A** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.  
**C** **We have seen Christ’s light, the light from God is Jesus.**
- A** Jesus said, “I am the light of the world...”  
**C** **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**

### Gathering Hymn

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

ELW 876

### Greeting

- P** The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray... Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.  
**C** **By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading

## Isaiah 58:1-9a

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced  
righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their  
God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not  
notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast  
day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your  
house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the  
dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear  
guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will  
answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here  
I am.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil." The score ends with a double bar line.

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

▣ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children’s Time**

*All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.*

### **Message**

*Silence for reflection. After reflection,*

*Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*

**Hymn of the Day**

***Rise, Shine, You People!***

**ELW 665**

*You may sit or kneel for prayer.*

### **Prayers**

☐ Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

☐ Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Bless the witness of missionaries especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Immanuel Lutheran Church, Allegan; Woodbury United Brethren, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

☐ Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund)*, *Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements)*, *Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen)*, *Joel Taggart (Varkula)*, *Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead)*, and *Seth Domke (Domke)*. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way especially *Veronica Baarson*, *Bob Bolton*, *Cherie Clements*, *Victor Crowder*, *Bob & Bonnie Ehredt*, *Amanda Haddix (pregnancy)*, *Henry Heil*, *Cheryl Hills*, *David Hills*, *Katie Holzgen (pregnancy)*, *Mike Kemper*, *Norma Ludlow*, *Alexis Markwart*, *Kinsley McManaway*, *The family of Carleen Overholt*, *Ken Plourde*, *Annette Poholski*, *Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy)*, *Jane Secor*, *Bob Sills*, *Al Throop*, *Maryellen Wammock*, *Erika Wood*, and *Kathy*. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** God of mercy, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**P** We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**G** **Amen.**



Arise in body or spirit.

## Offertory

## We Are an Offering

ELW 692



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

## Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
- C** **You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

*(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)*

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# You Are Holy



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

## Table Prayer

☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

☑ **Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**

☐ Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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 the mystery of faith.

☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

☑ **We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Let your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

☑ **Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.**

☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **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

☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### *Communion at Grace*

*All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.*

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *pouring chalice*. Take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Assisting Minister. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the Pastor.

### **Communion**

*This Little Light of Mine*

ELW 677

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

ELW 712

### **Prayer after Communion**

Ⓐ O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.

☒ **You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day — that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

### **Mission Minutes**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

#### **Blessing**

☐ The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

☒ **Amen**

### **Sending Song**

*O God of Light*

ELW 507

### **Dismissal**

Ⓐ Go in peace. Be light for the world.

☒ **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**  
**Lector – Doug Neeb**  
**Cantor – Cindy Olson**  
**Musician – Cindy Olson**  
**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

**10:45 am**

**Assisting Minister – Traci Wales**  
**Lector – Phil Poholski**  
**Cantor – Kate Watson**  
**Musician – Cindy Olson**  
**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**  
**Fellowship – Diane Neeb**

### **Salt and Light**

What we believe about ourselves has the power to shape our behavior in profound ways. If we believe we aren't good enough or are unwanted, that will likely show up in the way we carry ourselves, in the way we interact with others, and in the opportunities we seek out or don't. On the other hand, if we know that we are loved or if we feel like we belong, we will probably bring more assurance to our interactions with others, and will be more likely to take risks and to reach out and engage with our communities.

Similarly, our identity as disciples of Jesus has the power to shape the way we live. It all starts with who Jesus says we are. "You are the salt of the earth," Jesus tells his disciples. "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). Salt preserves food and adds flavor. Used masterfully, it brings out the best in the other flavors of a dish. It can pull other elements together to help create a new thing. Light nurtures life. It can comfort, energize, and help make things clear. Together, salt and light sustain, nourish, and welcome new life in the world around them.

What kind of people would we be if we really believed we were the salt of the earth and the light of the world? Nurturers, sustainers, co-creators with God in making all things new? What fears could we let go if we simply trusted that we are who Jesus says we are? What risks would we take? How would we show up in our communities? As we gather for worship today, we are invited to hear anew this identity we are given in Christ. Then, nourished by word and sacrament, we are sent forth with the promise that Christ is forever at work in us, keeping us as salt and light in all times and places.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## Stewardship Information

Attendance: 46

Views: 222

Weekly Giving: \$4,450.00

Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

Helping Hands: \$50.00

*Lifting Up* Campaign Needed: \$15,315.65

*Lifting Up* Campaign Received: -\$ 50.00

TOTAL Outstanding: \$15,265.65

**2022 Giving Statements** were included in your copy of the February GraceGram. February GraceGrams remaining in mailboxes were mailed out on Monday, January 30. If you did not receive yours, or if you have any questions about your giving statement for 2022, please contact Brenda. Thank you.

**Celebrate Recovery Ministry** is a Christ-centered ministry that gives people the resources and relationships to help find a new way of living. This ministry is for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits, or hang-ups, whether they are affecting their own life, or the lives of those around them. Grace is excited to host a Celebrate Recovery group every Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. But before this group can start their important work, they need volunteers.

Celebrate Recovery needs 24 volunteers for one hour per month.

- Door Greeter who also helps people get to where they need to be
- Someone to run sound and computer program
- Set up literature table for participants and hand out pamphlets
- Help set up and take down the dining area including coffee service and clean up

Eventually Celebrate Recovery will need childcare volunteers too.

Anyone with a 12-Step background may help lead any part of the group.

If you are interested in knowing more, or are able to help by volunteering, please contact the Celebrate ministry leaders to leave a message at 269.391.3080, or you can join them any Friday night at 6:00 p.m. Training will be given by the Celebrate Recovery ministry for those who are interested. You can also visit the website at [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com).

Grace Lutheran Church looks forward in helping Celebrate Recovery ministry get off the ground and looks forward to having them reach out and help those in need from our community.

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 get to hear how blessed we are to be children of God.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. Please pray that the youth that are part of Grace and our larger community, might consider going to this fantastic experience. The speakers, worship, fellowship, and service opportunities express the Christian body at its' best.

Our first phase of the *Lifting Up* campaign of raising \$25,000.00 will center on replenishing borrowed funds from the shortfall of our budget, as we keep in mind planning for the replacement of the HVAC that services the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in joining the Congregation Council in implementing *Lifting Up*.

**Adult Forum** studies the Psalms in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!









**The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service.** Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

**SAVE THE DATE** Saturday, February 25th the Social Activities Committee will host "Pizza and Game Night". Signup and more details to follow in February.

**The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 25<sup>th</sup>.** Please sign up by Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you are able to come out and enjoy this winter season with friends who are always welcoming and friendly.

Look for notices on the following news outlets

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**  
Closing will be published by the following media outlets:

<b>Television</b> WOOD TV 8 WWMT TV 3 WKSP TV WOTV 4	 WOOD TV 8 www.wood8.com	 WBCH 95.3 www.wbch.com	<b>Radio</b> WBCH 100.1 FM WBCH 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM
 theX WKSP TV	 wotv 4	 mix 104.9	 wood 8 atv
 WBCH 100.1 FM "That's Our Church Radio!"			
 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranastings">https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranastings</a>			