

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 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music (10:45)

Abide with Me

Cathy Moklebust

Carla Wilson-Neil, Piano; Kim Domke and Anita Shaw Bells

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817

Greeting

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**

A Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C **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.

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Second

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.
- ☞ **Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.**

Special Music (10:45)

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Victor L. Gumma

Carla Wilson-Neil, Piano; Kim Domke and Anita Shaw Bells

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Ⓔ A reading from **Genesis:**

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Ⓔ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121




Refrain

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
my help comes from the LORD.

¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?

²**My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;** 

⁵the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.** 

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

☒ A reading from **Romans**:

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.
Gospel Acclamation

Return to God

Re - turn to God with

Em Am7 Bm7 Em

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A repeat sign follows. The second staff is a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Chords are labeled as Em, Am7, Bm7, and Em.

all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der

Am6/E Em7 Am/E C

This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "all your heart, the Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Chords are labeled as Am6/E, Em7, Am/E, and C.

1. *Optional repeat* 2.

faith - ful - ness of God. Re - God.

D A Bm7 Am/E E

This system contains the final two staves of music. The vocal line has two endings. The first ending is marked "1. Optional repeat" and leads back to the beginning of the phrase. The second ending is marked "2." and concludes the phrase. The piano accompaniment includes a key change to D major for the second ending. Chords are labeled as D, A, Bm7, Am/E, and E.

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

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

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

📖 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

You Are Mine

ELW 581

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

Ⓐ 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.

Ⓐ O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Saint John's Lutheran Church, Baroda; Zion Lutheran Church, Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. 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).* Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress especially *Bob Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales Depew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Henry Heil, Cheryl Hills, David Hills, Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Alexis Markwart, Kinsley McManaway, Walter McManaway, Martha Mizak, Corrina Palmer, Annette Poholski, Carl Schoessel, Jane Secor, Bob Sills, Theresa Strefling, Al Throop, Maryellen Wammock, Erika Wood, and Kathy.* Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Lord in your mercy,
☞ **hear our prayer.**

- Ⓐ O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Lord in your mercy,

- ☞ **hear our prayer.**

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

- ☞ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

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**

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.

- ☞ **And also with you.**

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

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.**

Table Prayer

☐ 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.**

Communion

Jubilate

Douglas E. Wagner

Carla Wilson-Neil, Piano; Kim Domke and Anita Shaw Bells

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

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

Arise in body or spirit.

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

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

Dismissal

☞ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Jamie Heise

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Joe Longcor

Cantor – Paul Kuhlman

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

We welcome the piano and bell players and thank them for sharing their talents today at the 10:45 service.

Windy People

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit? Jesus tells Nicodemus those who are born of the Spirit are like the wind: you can hear it but cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. What does it mean to be people of the wind? Are we to be heard, but unpredictable in our actions? Maybe.

Nicodemus is curious, working hard to reason out who Jesus is and what Jesus is saying. The trouble is that the eternal life Jesus is bringing into the world is not logical. Rebirth in the Spirit does not fit our framework of experience. The resurrection that follows the cross is not a scientific principle but a new work of God, received by faith rather than reason. The work of God is unpredictable.

Generally, we as people prefer predictability and order to uncertainty and chaos. There are reasons for this: people can be unpredictable in ways that bring pain and trauma into our lives. But there is a difference between this sort of volatility and the unpredictable ways God's grace lands in the world. God's grace always brings new life.

To be good stewards of our resources, congregations should have orderly financial processes, clear policies, and well-thought-out mission and ministry. At the same time, we can plan the Spirit right out of our work if we are more dedicated to order than we are to discernment. The Spirit blows as she will. Is there room in our worship for some improvisation when the Spirit shows up in a new way? Is there flexibility in our ministry to pivot to a new opportunity as the Spirit blows by?

Born of the Spirit, may we windy people be surprised by God's grace and be blessed to carry that gift to a world that is not expecting it.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 51	Views: 234
Weekly Giving: \$1853.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Youth: \$8.00	Miscellaneous: \$250.00
February Online Giving: \$2,083.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$14,465.65	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$</u> 0.00	
TOTAL Outstanding: \$14,465.65	

Lenten Meal and Service Join us for an Italian meal beginning at 6:30 and WORSHIP at 7:15. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Area. Proceeds to go to ELCA World Hunger Program. If you cannot sign up, please call the office at 269.945.9414, or email parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

Prayer Chain Grace is activating the prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

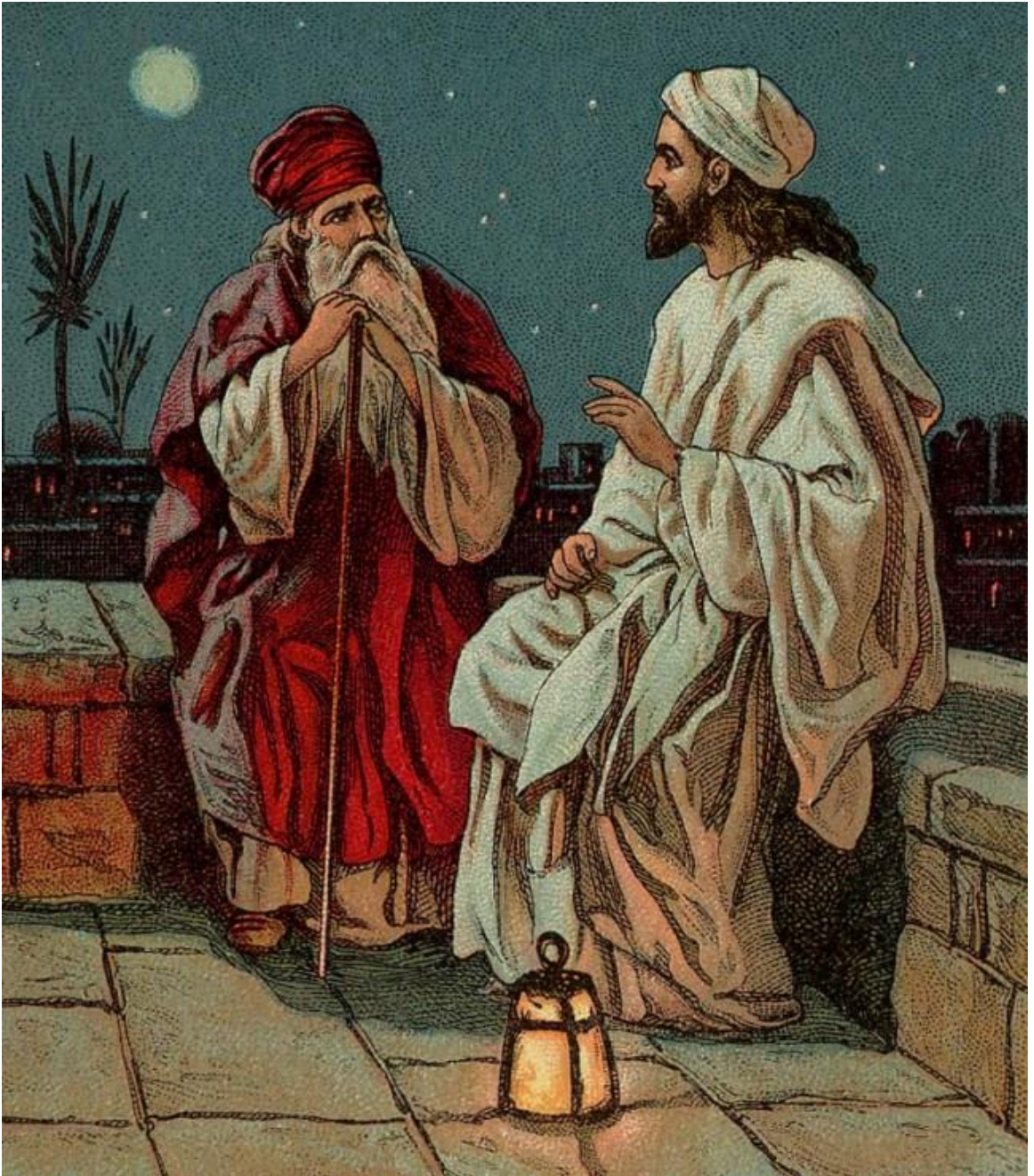
Celebrate Recovery Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry that gives people the resources and relationships to help find a new way of living. This ministry is for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits, or hang-ups, whether they are affecting their own life, or the lives of those around 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. If you are interested in knowing more, please call 269.391.3080.

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 Proverbs 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.



Jesus said to Nicodemus, “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world.”

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. As Nicodemus does not see, we too are invited to see God's grace revealed through Jesus Christ.

Save the Date – *The Wizard of Oz* - March 18th, 2:00 p.m. at the Hastings Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 general admission and Students are \$6. Please place cash or check in an envelope provided on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and leave on Brenda's desk; make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. If carpooling, meet at Grace Lutheran Church by 1pm to leave Church by 1:15pm, otherwise, meet at the PAC at 1:30pm. After the play, those interested can meet at Applebee's for food & fellowship (everyone pays their own way for both the play & food/meal). Questions? Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216. **Deadline for sign-up is TODAY.**

Lenten devotionals entitled *The JOY of SALVATION* are available in the Gathering Area thanks to the Community Outreach Committee.


Pasty Sale will be on April 1st. No foolin'! Unbaked are \$7.00 and Baked are \$8.00 each. Proceeds go to the **Helping Hands** fund. Orders are due on or before Thursday, March 23.

Daylight Savings Time begins This coming Sunday, March 12th, 2023. Don't forget to spring your clocks forward.

Giving Online If you would like to donate online, please visit www.grace-hastings.org. Once you are on the website click the donate button and follow the prompts that appear. Thanks, your partnership in sharing God's grace with the world through Grace Lutheran Church is appreciated.

Look for notices on the following news outlets

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

Television WOOD TV 8 WWMT TV 3 WXSP TV WOTV 4		Radio WBCH 100.1 FM WBCH 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM
--	---	---

<https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranhastings>