

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

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.

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... Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
- ☩ **By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

Ⓔ A reading from **1 Samuel:**

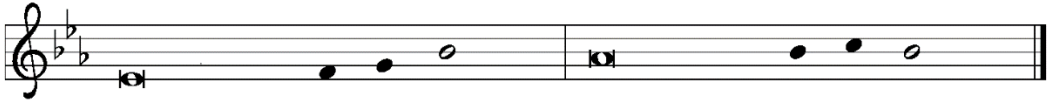
¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Ⓔ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23



Refrain




You have a - noint - ed my head with oil.

¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹side still waters.**

³You restore my¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me.** 

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever.** 

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

☒ A reading from **Ephesians**:

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

☒ 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 3/4 time, starting with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4, then a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, starting with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G3, then a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

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 quarter notes C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, and C6. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, and G4. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

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 a first ending (marked '1. Optional repeat') consisting of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, followed by a repeat sign and a second ending (marked '2.') consisting of a half note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F#4, and G4. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then

they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

- 📖 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.*



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
 2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
 3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
 4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
 5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
 You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
 you have known its mean - ing through and through.
 still I search for shel - ter from your light.
 gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
 and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
 You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
 There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
 For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
 in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
 God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
 e - ven the dark - ness is ra - dian in your sight.
 safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

☐ Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

☐ Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Guide, direct, and watch over *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Saint Peter Lutheran Church, Battle Creek; Central United Methodist, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

A Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially *Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales Depew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Sheri Greenfield, The family of Harvey Griffith, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Henry Heil, Cheryl Hills, Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Alexis Markwart, Laura McLeod, Kinsley McManaway, Walter McManaway, The family of Kris Miller, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Annette Poholski, Carl Schoessel, Jane Secor, Bob Sills, Theresa Strefling, "Hotdog" Swanson, The family of Carol Tobias, Al Throop, Erika Wood, and Kathy*. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **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

Amazing Grace

ELW 779

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW 774

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 – Chris Bush

Lector – Jack Vos

Cantor – Ken Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Bill & Lorraine Freedlund

What? Or Why?

What do we believe? Our Lutheran heritage is rooted in theological debate, and such conversations have always been a part of our tradition. Disagreements about theological propositions and biblical interpretations have led to split after split among Lutheran church bodies and congregations. At the same time, our theological and biblical commitments have led us to seek the unity of the church with mergers among Lutheran denominations and with common communion agreements with our ecumenical neighbors. In our broader culture it also seems that theology often leads the way in conversations about faith. Theological principles from various religious communities are used to argue for or against laws, corporate practices, and cultural expectations.

In today's gospel story we find something different leading the way: the blind man's experience of the healing power of Jesus. This experience is at odds with the theological thought of the religious leaders. The narrative reads like a trial, one in which the primary witness is hostile to the line of questioning from the prosecution. The conversations the leaders have with the man and his parents are a mess of misunderstanding that leads to insult and accusation. They are talking about theology; he and his parents are talking about experience. No one is there to translate between the two.

Why do you believe? Our understandings of God are certainly shaped by the communities of which we have been a part and theologies we have learned. Yet, God's grace is not something we logic our way through; it is something we experience. The early church debated all sorts of theological positions, but their witness was grounded in their experience of death and resurrection. *What* we believe is important, but as we step into each day as witnesses of God's love for the world, *why* we believe may be the most hope-filled message we have to share.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 47

Weekly Giving: \$2,913.00

ELCA World Relief: \$105.00

Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$14,465.65

Lifting Up Campaign Received: -\$ 0.00

TOTAL Outstanding: \$14,465.65

Views: 248

Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

Noisy Offering: \$40.19

Lenten Meal and Service Join us for a picnic meal: sloppy joes, potato chips, relishes, cookies, and of course coleslaw. The MEAL begins at 6:30 with WORSHIP at 7:15. A sign-up sheet is located in the Gathering Area. Proceeds 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.

Save the Date SAC Trip to Meijer Gardens Join us for a fun trip to Meijer Gardens on Saturday, April 15. We'll be leaving Grace at NOON to see the beautiful plants and butterflies. Cost is dependent upon garden membership status. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for details on cost and to sign up. Questions? Contact Deborah Wilke.

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 the Proverbs in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

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.

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

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.

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.**

Budget Planning Sheets are due on April 1 to the church office.

Pastor Rosanne Anderson Bishop Satterlee's assistant, Rosanne Anderson, has been on medical leave since February and will be retiring on April 30.

Easter Bulb Flowers are available for \$10.00 each. Please place order on Brenda's desk in the office with payment. Orders due April 3rd.

GraceGrams are available for pick up today.

Mark your calendar for our Special One Service Only Worship on April 30th at 10 am. Come and celebrate with a meal afterwards and hear some wonderful music.

Save the date! Thornapple Players presents *Into the Woods*. Look for a signup sheet, so can plan to sit together. Cost for tickets are \$10.00 for Adults and \$8.00 for Senior Citizens and Students. Please use cash for this even, as Thornapple Players does not accept the church charge payment.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
Worship service
at 7:15 pm
April 6, 2023

Cross Walk
Good Friday
at 9:30 am
April 7, 2023

Good Friday - Tenebrae
(DARKNESS)
Worship service at 7:15 pm
April 7, 2023