

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
June 18, 2023

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023

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! We are a new creation. Yes, we have new things happening all the time, such as graduates going away to college or entering the work force, a middle-aged person who finds the need to move to a new job or even someone a little bit older retiring. These things that are new are from a human point of view, but God makes us new even in our weakness, dying and suffering. God walks with us and gives us new and abundant life. Let us each know the love of God!

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- 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.**
- A** O Lord, open our lips,
- C** **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**
- P** Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
- C** **that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- A** Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
- C** **who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.**



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.



Refrain
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Prayer of the Day

- ▲ Let us pray.... O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world.
 ☐ **Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

☐ A reading from Ezekiel.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

☞ A reading from 2 Corinthians.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Spoken*

Alleluia!

Alleluia. Alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Apostles Creed

☐ We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays,
Your mercy is great.*

A Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence

A Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Grace Lutheran Church, East Tawas, St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness, including *Vickey Argo, Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Mike Fruth, The Gary Edwards Family (Kay Howell's son-in-law), Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Mike Hoppe, Wendy Kimble, Douglas and Maddie Lydy, Joe Longcor, Bill Melcher, Gale Morway, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr. Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓐ Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. (*You may share your prayers at this time*)

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Hear us, O God.

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓟ We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

☞ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

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

Offering Prayer

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for the blessing of your presence.

☞ **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that our lives may reflect your generosity, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

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.**

Ⓟ 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by the glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name forever.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ 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.**

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

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy and fed us at your table.

☞ **Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

☞ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in God, and abound in thanksgiving. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

☞ **Amen.**

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- B Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Assembly Required

Many of us are dumbfounded by instructions, even if we have the patience to read them. We may in fact ignore them, ripping open a cardboard box holding a new gadget, toy, or piece of furniture and launching into assembly without bothering to find the enclosed paperwork. In this story from Matthew, the instructions for the twelve laborers are clear: cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Having watched Jesus' ministry of proclamation and healing, they are sent out on their own ministry to do the same.

Are they ready? Who knows. If we're honest, we seldom feel completely ready for tasks before us, even if we've read or heard the instructions. Instructions only take us so far, after all. Then we're on our own. Or better yet, on a team. That's where our creativity and can-do spirit kick in.

Sounds like the church, doesn't it? In this sending of the disciples, the church is cast into the world with the mission of preaching, teaching, and healing. These verses from Matthew, filled with both compassion and urgency, are for the original audience and for us. Jesus sends us too. And more than "some" assembly is required. We need the entire assembly! We laborers are sent first from the font, then week after week from the table.

The words in the service of Holy Baptism send us into the world to "proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace" (*ELW*, p. 228). Thank God for those who labor with us and cheer us on our way. We need both the instructions and the assembly. And most importantly, the Holy One who sends us out.

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Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Sandy Mosteller

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

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 continues to call each one of us. Even though we do wrong or sin by not caring, Jesus loves us and asks us to love one another.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Attendance: 58
Weekly Giving: \$5,884.00
\$4,301.04
Synod Youth Gathering: \$200.00

Views: 214
Budget Amount:
Noisy Offering: \$39.52

Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$9,240.65 -Note starting need was \$25,000.00
Lifting Up Campaign Received: -\$ 0.00
TOTAL Outstanding: \$9,240.65
Insurance Claim for Roof: \$61,124.18

We welcome Pastor Mike Kemper as preacher and presiding minister. We are thankful that he shares his talents with us, as Pastor Ken and Laura enjoy Camp Luther. We are blessed by Pastor Mike's gift of preaching and are thankful for his work on this Father's Day.

We thank Amy and Phil Poholski for hosting the Annual Church cookout. We had a good crowd and a wonderful time of fellowship. We are blessed with a wonderful church family.

Time and Talent Inventory is available in the Gathering Area. Please fill out and return by July 1 to the collection folder. Thank you.

Prayer Chain Grace has an activated 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.

Adult Forum studies normally 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.

The Annual Grace Auto Show is July 30, 2023. We will be having a combined service at 10:00 a.m. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this fun event.

The 2023 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, JULY 9th at 9:30 am.

Vacation Bible School Green Street United Methodist Church has graciously invited our youth to attend their VBS this year July 10-12 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The theme this year is "Hero Hotline". If you have questions or are able to help by being a volunteer, please contact Salina at kidzone.greenstreetumc@gmail.com.

Church Emails Some emails being sent to Gmail accounts from the parish administrator account have been bouncing back to the spam folder. To solve this problem, the [grace.lutheran.hastings@gmail](mailto:grace.lutheran.hastings@gmail.com) account has been reactivated. If you see emails from this account, they are not spam and your replies will come through. If you feel as if you are still not receiving emails, please let Brenda know by contacting the church office at 269.945.9414. Thank you.