

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
July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 23, 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, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

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

Gathering Song

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

ELW 786

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.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray... Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.
C By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

℣ A reading from **Isaiah**:

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

℣ The word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17



Refrain



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

📖 A reading from **Romans:**

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew**.

☒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

☐ 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.

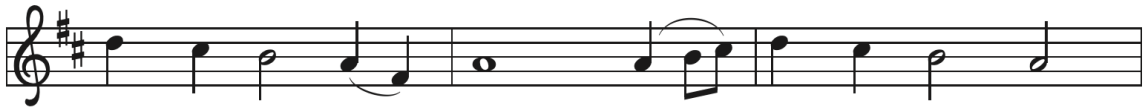
Hymn of the Day

The Reign of God, Like Farmer's Field

ACS 952



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Receive our prayer, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us mercy.***

A Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Edgewood Lutheran Church, Fruitport; Free Methodist Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. 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).* Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Tina Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Lexi Markwart, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie Osborn (pregnancy), Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Al Throop, Kay Wagner, the Family of Matt Wilke, and Erika Wood.* Sustain your people living with HIV/AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

A You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope.
Receive our prayer, O God.

G **You give us mercy.**

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Let the Vineyards

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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 this bread and wine.
- ☑ **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

- ⒫ The peace of Christ be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: "The Lord be with you." and "And al - so with you." The second staff has two measures: "Lift up your hearts." and "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff has two measures: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff has two measures: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns using quarter and eighth notes.

♩ 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.

Table Prayer

♩ 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 his 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 and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written on five staves of a single melodic line in treble clef, 3/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

- Ⓟ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.
- Ⓞ **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**
- Ⓟ 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.
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,
- Ⓞ **we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- Ⓞ **so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**

☐ Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ Amen

Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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

☐ God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Lamb of God

☑ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry rest - less
 2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us sec - ond
 3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner, be our
 4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it, On - ly



heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
 birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
 friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
 Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, One - in -



loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
 weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
 are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us; aid the
 Three and Three - in - One. We would share your life, your



round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing
 strug - gles, Life of life and Death of death, ris - en
 birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of
 pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er



sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- ☒ **Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

Service of Renewal of Vows for Ron and Sandi Hayward

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- Ⓐ God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- ☒ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Sending

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

Postlude

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. We know that evil is around us, and we are thankful that God leads us and guides us by grace each day.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 51	Views: 198
Weekly Giving: \$1,134.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Social Activities: \$100.00	
Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$8,790.65	- Note starting need was \$25,000.00
Lifting Up Campaign Received: <u>-\$1,000.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$7,790.65

Mark Your Calendar On August 20th the social activities committee is planning on going to the Cereal City Band Concert at 3:00 pm with a tour of the Kellogg House prior to the concert. There is no charge. We plan to leave the church in a carpool at 1:30 pm and will stop for food after the concert. The sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area.

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 Proverbs in the Gathering Area at 9:30 a.m. We hope you can join us.

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 next Sunday, 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.

Giving Envelopes In an effort to save money and resources, we are trying to reduce the number of giving envelopes we order for 2024. **If you do not need envelopes** for the coming year, please write your name on the list in the Gathering Area. Thank you.

Today's Fellowship following the 10:45 service is being held in honor of Ron and Sandi Hayward's wedding renewal and Sandi's birthday.

A Righteous Harvest

One of the lessons of history is that when humans try to do the weeding, things end badly. Whenever we try to divide the world into good guys and bad guys, people get hurt. Everyone winds up being a bad guy to somebody, and you can do anything to the bad guys. You can lie about them. You can hurt them. You can hurt other people on your way to getting the bad guys, and that's regrettable. But it's okay to sacrifice some of the good guys in order to get the bad guys, right?

But the kingdom of heaven is not like the farmer who pulled up half of the wheat seedlings while going after the weeds. The kingdom of heaven is more like Jesus, who was so unwilling to cause harm to others that he died instead. Instead of pulling up the weeds and casting them into the fire, Jesus went into the fire himself.

Therefore, the harvest is fruitful beyond imagining, because the harvest is Jesus himself! Jesus bears the fruit of righteousness, reconciliation, and peace. He will gather all people into his care, and they will not be troubled by sickness, or violence, or hatred, or death. This will happen, not because Jesus will destroy all enemies, but because Jesus, by his death, will transform enemies into friends.

The weeds and the wheat are still growing in this world. Although Jesus has already done all that is needed for the final harvest, all of us growing here on this earth still need the help of our neighbors. Just as the farmer in the story instructed his servants to care for the wheat until it was time for the harvest, so God calls us to actively work with Jesus to make things better for people right here and right now.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Vicki Tebo
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Anna Scheck
Cantor – Kate Watson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Bill and Lorraine Freedlund