

# 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  
July 30, 2023

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 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.*

Gathering Songs

*Nothing Ever Could Separate Us*

Citizen Way


## Kyrie Eleison

W&P 81

*Refrain*




Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day. Last time



1 For peace in the world, for the  
2 That we may live out the poor;  
3 For peace in our hearts, for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;  
passioned re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;  
peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;  
cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,  
that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,  
that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

## Welcome/Announcements

### Call to Worship

*Each phrase is sung by the leader and repeated by the congregation.*

### *In the Name of the Father*

In the name of the Father,  
in the name of the Son,  
in the name of the Spirit,  
the three in one.

### Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy.
- ☞ **By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### First Reading

**1 Kings 3:5-12**

📖 A reading from **1 Kings**.

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn of Praise

## *Come Light Our Hearts*

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You.  
Truly our hope is in You. (Repeat)

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines on all who look to You in the dark.  
Emanuel come, come light our hearts. (Repeat)

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You.  
Truly our hope is in You.

O Joy above all other loves, in You we find more than enough  
We come as we are,  
O heal and restore, come light our hearts. (Repeat)

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait.  
For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You.  
Truly our hope is in You.  
Truly our hope is in You.

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation (Spoken)**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven.**

**Alleluia.** (*Matt. 8:11*)

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

☐ 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.*


*Refrain*




Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing




in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the



spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.



1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,



out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
asked . . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

*Refrain*

## Prayers

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

- ▣ 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** Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrissy and David, our synod companions Peace Lutheran Church, Gaylord; Freeport United Brethern; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Be with those who safeguard the world, *especially Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads), and Seth Domke (nephew and Godson of Ed and Kim Domke)*. Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick *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, Joanie Oster, 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*. Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

**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.**



*Refrain/Estribillo*

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 *Que* mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
 1 Take my hands and let them move  
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
 4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
 at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 not a mite would I with - hold;  
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;

que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
 take my feet and let them be swift and  
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
 take my lips and let them be filled with  
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

pul - so de tu a - mor.  
 beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
 mes - sag - es from thee.  
 be thy roy - al throne.

*Refrain/Estribillo*

## 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**

## 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 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 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.**

## Communion Songs

### *Put Your Hand in the Hand*

**Words and Music  
by Gene MacLellan**

Put your hand in the hand of the One who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the One who calmed the sea.  
Take a look at yourself and a you can look at others differently.  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the One from Galilee.

Every time I look into the holy book I wanna tremble.  
When I read about the part where a carpenter cleared the temple.  
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas than what I profess to be  
And it causes me pain to know I'm not the person I should be.

Put your hand in the hand of the One who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the One who calmed the sea.  
Take a look at yourself and a you can look at others differently.  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the One from Galilee.

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

*Refrain*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- |   |            |     |         |              |     |        |
|---|------------|-----|---------|--------------|-----|--------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or  | Jew,    | ser - vant   | or  | free,  |
| 2 | Man - y    | the | gifts,  | man - y      | the | works, |
| 3 | Grain for  | the | fields, | scat - tered | and | grown, |



wom - an or man, no more.  
one in the Lord of all.  
gath - ered to one for all.

*Refrain*

## *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

1. He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole wide world in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

2. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.  
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.  
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

3. He's got the tiny bitty baby in his hands.  
He's got the tiny bitty baby in his hands.  
He's got the tiny bitty baby in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

4. He's got you and me brother in his hands.  
He's got you and me brother in his hands.  
He's got you and me brother in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

### **Prayer after Communion**

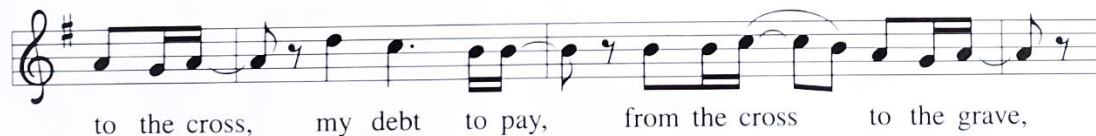
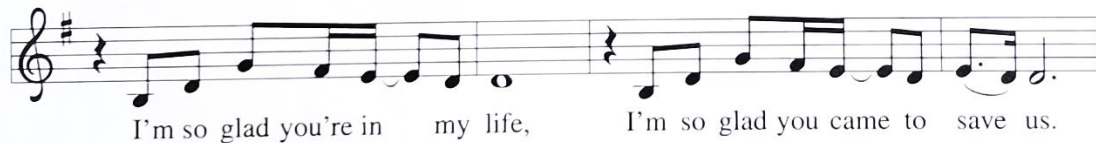
- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- ☒ **Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord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

### **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.**



**Repeat 3x**

**Dismissal**

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

**Prayer for our BBQ meal**

## The Greatest of Shrubs

Surely God's kingdom should end up sounding more impressive. Surely God can do better. Providing shelter for birds does sound like something God would do, but why can't the birds nest in a more attractive tree? A mustard seed, at its best, grows into a sort of weedy shrub. The greatest of shrubs is not that great.

Maybe that's the point. Maybe these little stories are supposed to seem a little strange. After all, God's choices often seem that way to us. God does not always value what we value. God likes small, weedy shrubs as much as big, majestic trees.

That is extremely good news for those of us who suspect we have more in common with the shrub than the tree. It is good to know that God loves both! It is good to know that God loves the mustard seeds of this world enough that God sends Jesus to be a mustard seed, to be the living proof that the kingdom of heaven is real. And the kingdom of heaven is here, because Jesus is here. And as we are filled with his Spirit, we also become living signs of that same kingdom.

After all, a God whose kingdom can be compared with something like a mustard seed is probably not going to stop short of using other unlikely things. A God like that might even decide to use people like us. So look around. What do you see? What do you see that surprises you? What do you see that you normally take for granted? What do you see that's alive? The kingdom of heaven is like that. The kingdom of heaven is even like us, right now. The kingdom of heaven may not do what we expect, or even what we want—but one way or another, the kingdom of heaven will grow.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo**

**Lector – Bill Freedlund**

**Musicians – Tom Kuhs (saxophone), Jimmy Russell (guitar), Clyde N. Watson (drums), Clyde S. Watson, Jr. (bass guitar), Kate Watson (vocals), and Kristi Winick (keyboard)**

**Bows and Buddies – Dave Carr, Marianne Dejong, Sarah Hillary Beth Lepek, Carla Neil, and Vickie Reid**

**Vocalists – Vickey Argo, Virginia Henion, Laura Scheck, Traci Wales, and Kate Watson**

**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.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



### Stewardship Information

Attendance: 49	Views: 184
Weekly Giving: \$1,680.68	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$7,790.65	Note starting need was \$25,000.00
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: \$ 50.00	Bottles and Cans: \$7.00
TOTAL Outstanding: \$7,740.65	

**WELCOME TO the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Grace Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show!** We are so glad to have you join us today for worship, fellowship, and food.

**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 normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there when we resume next Sunday.

**The nursery is available weekly 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.

**Change Purse** Last Sunday, someone left an offering in the plate located outside of the office. It was in a beautiful little handcrafted change purse. If you are the person who made the offering, we would like to get your change purse back to you. Please contact the office at 269.945.9414 or stop by the office during office hours to pick it up. Thank you for your offering.

**Relay for Life** will take place on September 16th, from 10am to 10pm, at Tyden park in Hastings. Additional information can be found in the Gathering Area.