

# 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  
August 20, 2023

# Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 20, 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

*All Are Welcome*

ELW 641

## 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... God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.  
**C** Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 67



### Refrain



Let all the peo - ples praise you, O




God, let all the peo - ples praise you.

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to <sup>1</sup> us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face <sup>1</sup> shine upon us.


<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known <sup>1</sup> upon earth,  
your saving health a- <sup>1</sup> mong all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise <sup>1</sup> you, O God;  
let all the <sup>1</sup> peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and <sup>1</sup> sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- <sup>1</sup> tions on earth.** 

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise <sup>1</sup> you, O God;  
let all the <sup>1</sup> peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought <sup>1</sup> forth its increase;  
God, our own <sup>1</sup> God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God <sup>1</sup> give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth <sup>1</sup> stand in awe. 

## Second Reading

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

📖 A reading from **Romans:**

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

## Gospel Acclamation

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!*  
*al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!*

## Gospel Reading

## Matthew 15: 21-28

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

☐ 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

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

ELW 759

*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.**

Ⓐ 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.*

Ⓐ O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Ledge; Grace Brethren Bible Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Receive our prayer, O God.

☞ **You give us mercy.**

Ⓐ You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Receive our prayer, O God.

☞ **You give us mercy.**

Ⓐ You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. 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.

☞ **You give us mercy.**

**A** You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick especially *Veronica Baarson, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat and Ray DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Tina Kemper, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie Osborn (pregnancy), Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Al Throop, Kay Wagner, and the Family of Matt Wilke*. Receive our prayer, O God.

**G** **You give us mercy.**

**A** O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. 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

## God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la  
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -  
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -  
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - nión; pues a - sí es la co - mu - nión.  
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

## Offering Prayer

- A** 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.
- C** **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

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- C** **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

☐ 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



San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la*  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

*tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el*  
 earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the

*nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el*  
 name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

*cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -*  
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .

*di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.*  
 Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

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

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer - cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da - nos tu paz. grant us your peace.

### Communion Songs

*One Bread, One Body*

ELW 496

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

ELW 588

### 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.**

### Sending Song

*Rise, Shine, You People*

ELW 665

### Sending

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

### Postlude

## **Holding Jesus Accountable**

As disturbing as the report of Jesus' callous-sounding encounter with the unnamed Canaanite woman may be to our ears, all around him, on both sides of their ethnic divide, were people who would have been outraged by any act of generosity or goodwill between a Jew and a Canaanite. So it's no surprise when the disciples urge Jesus to send her away. Animosities toward "those" on the other side of the border, between children of Canaan and children of Israel, were deeply entrenched and easily inflamed. Jesus appears to identify with the ill will.

All eyes and ears attend the scene. The shouting, then kneeling woman is in stubborn company with others whose protesting faith demands more than silence from God, who refuse to be rejected by God, who insist on being heard by God. She is in the company of Jacob, who wrestled with God through the night and demanded a blessing; with Moses pleading for God's mercy upon stiff-necked people; with Job, not settling for a vindictive Creator. She's in tradition with the psalmist's entreaty "My God, . . . why [are you] so far from saving me?" (Psalm 22:1). She is beside Martha railing against Jesus' delay as her brother, Lazarus, lay dying, and beside the blind men shouting to Jesus above defiant crowds at Jericho.

The Canaanite woman is clear about the way of Jesus, so she dares to hold him—Son of David, face of God—accountable. Yes, her aggressive and, surely for many, objectionable faith in the mercy of Jesus against all evidence to the contrary results in her daughter's healing. What's more, her persistent challenge to Jesus becomes an enduring voice to be heard by any who dare claim that God's mercy is limited, God's help is restricted, or God's providence is settled. She raises her voice and takes a knee for the church of Jesus Christ, representing all the voices shouting, "Have mercy on me."

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### **8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**

**Lector – Dave Neeb**

**Cantor – Cindy Olson**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

### **10:45 am**

**Assisting Minister – Kate Watson**

**Lector – Gwen Hansen**

**Cantor – Mary Kuhlman**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

**Fellowship – Watson Family**



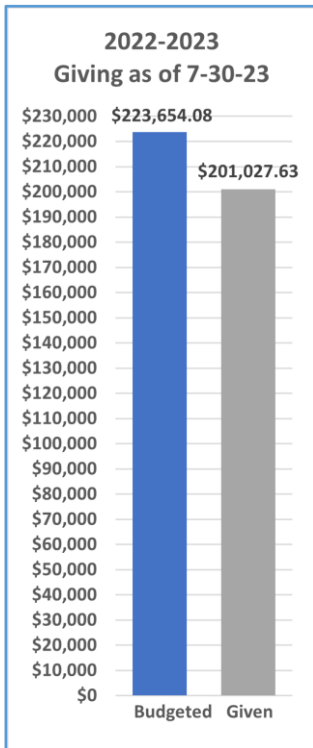
**The Outreach Committee** is participating in the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students and their families. Currently 55 students at Northeastern Elementary and Hastings High School are served by this program. We are collecting donations and you can help by donating Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding

cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready- to-eat mac and cheese. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. Donations are due by August 25 and will be packed at Green Street Methodist on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

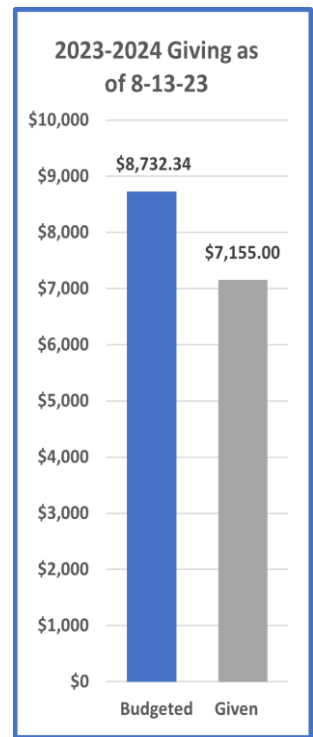
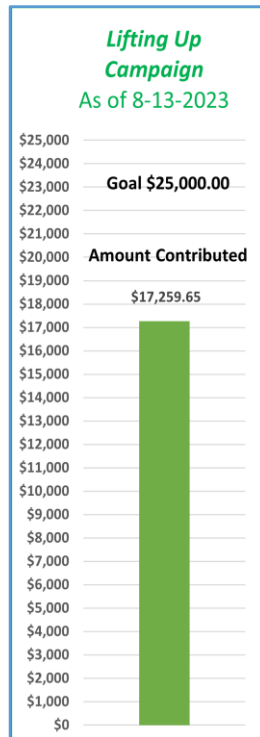
**Relay for Life** You are invited to participate in **RELAY FOR LIFE** by walking, donating, or praying for a safe event on **September 16 10am-10pm** at TYDEN PARK in Hastings. See the bulletin board and display for more details.

**BOG** Brothers of Grace are meeting on a new night this year. They are gathering at 6:00 p.m. for their first meeting on Thursday, September 14. Gentlemen mark your calendars, and we'll see you then.

**Final Giving for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year**



**Giving for the Current Fiscal Year**



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 save and heal each one of us. We are able to call upon God for healing. There are times when healing does not seem to come. We ask especially in times we cannot see God's forgiveness, acceptance, and healing that we might see the love God has for us.

### Stewardship Information



Attendance: 54	Views: 246
Weekly Giving: \$2,425.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17 (2023-2024 F.Y.)
Helping Hands (8/6/23): \$10.00	Noisy Offering: \$82.01
Social Activities: \$30.00	Funeral Reception: \$200.00
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$7,740.65	- Note starting need was \$25,000.00
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 0.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding: \$ 7,740.65	

**Grace Projects** needs your support as Council has voted to ask for funds to help pay for our \$1,000.00 deductible for the roof replacement and repair. Thank you for considering giving towards this need.

**Cereal City Band Concert** is today for all of those who have signed up. Those who are planning on carpooling will need to be at the church prior to the 1:30 departure. Don't forget, there will be a stop for food after the concert.

**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** currently studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am. Please join us.

**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.

**Books for Kids** Please consider giving toward our Books for Kids program. Each gift of \$20.00 will ensure that a child will be provided a book in Shayna Gibbons classroom. Thank you for your consideration in helping with this ministry need.

**Social Activities** have planned a trip to Turkeyville on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m. Tickets are \$58 each which includes a turkey meal and the play *Forever Plaid*. The deadline for sign-up is Sunday, September 17. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more details and information regarding payment.