Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 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-Bell Choir

Fortitude Psalm of Joy

arr. John C. Dare

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

- Amen.
- P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Steadfast and faithful God,
- 9 you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
- P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
- Amen.

Gathering Song

Listen, God is Calling

ELW 513

Opening Sentences

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P Grace be with you from the Holy Trinity; our true God, who comes to us with the love of a parent, redeemer, and upholder.
- And also with you.
- A Come, let us be filled by the Holy Spirit.
- For the Lord gives us strength when we are weak in faith.
- **P** When we are cold in love,
- **Q** Warm us with fervor so we may love our neighbors.
- A God's bountiful goodness fills all creation.
- **②** Let all colors and races give God hearty praise. Amen





Prayer of the Day

- A Let us pray... Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age.
- Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

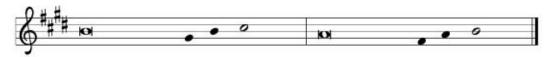
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

L A reading from **Jeremiah.**

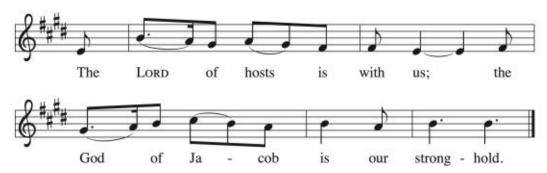
³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46



Refrain



¹God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;

³though its waters | rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-| y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;

God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;

God speaks, and the earth $^{\mid}$ melts away. \blacksquare

⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works | of the LORD, what desolations God has brought up-| on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of [|] hosts is with us; the God of Jacob [|] is our stronghold. ■

Second Reading Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

L A reading from **Romans**:

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

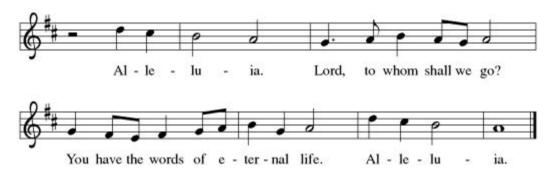
L Word of God, word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Page 151



Gospel Reading John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

- P The Holy Gospel according to **John**.
- **ఆ** Glory to you, O Lord.
- ³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"
- ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
- **P** 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.

Special Music-Bell Choir

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. by Jason W. Krug

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection, Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.





You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, God of Grace. The assembly prays, Receive our prayer.

- A Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

 A brief silence.
- A God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Peace Lutheran Church, Holland; Hickory Corners Wesleyan Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of Grace.

© Receive our prayer.

A God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of Grace.

Receive our prayer.

A God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. 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).* God of Grace.

☑ Receive our prayer.

A God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer especially Veronica Baarson, the family of Mary Jane Blackmore, Diana Brown, Doug Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy and Kristen Cove, Jet Cover, Pat DePew, the family of Ray DePew, Lisa Golnek, Norma Ludlow, Virginia Moomey, Corrina Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Jennifer Rohr, Randy Teegardin, Jeanette Ulrich, and Al Throop. Be their rest and comfort. God of Grace.

© Receive our prayer.

A God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of Grace.
- **☑** Receive our prayer.
- P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- @ Amen.

Arise in body or spirit.



Offering Prayer

- A Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- **Q** Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your hands and feet in the world.

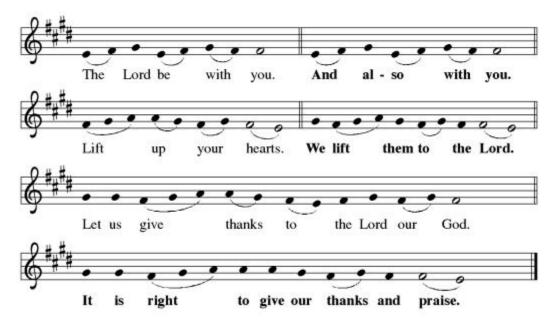
Sharing the Peace of God

- P The peace of Christ be with you.
- And also with you.

 $(We \ share \ the \ peace \ of \ Christ \ with \ one \ another.)$

Reformation Sunday - Page 11

Great Thanksgiving



P 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:



Table Prayer

- P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
- **2** You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.
- 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.
 - 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 the Lord's death until he comes.
- **©** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Remembering, therefore, Christ's life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
- **B** By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.
- P By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
- **Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

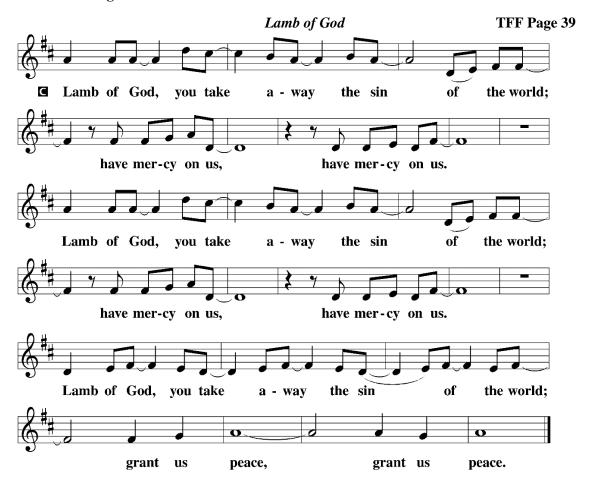
- P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

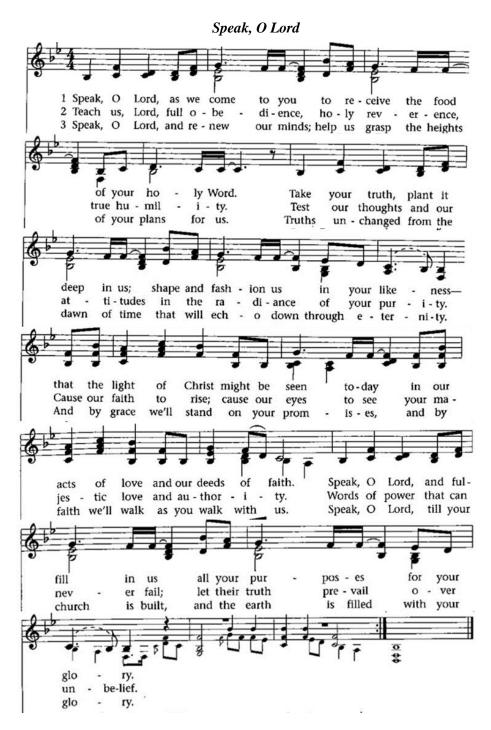
Invitation to Communion

- P Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- M Thanks be to God.

Sit.

Communion Songs







Prayer after Communion

- ⚠ Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- **©** Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

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.
- **G** Amen.

Sending Song

The Church of Christ in Every Age

ELW 729

Sending

- A Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Reformation Sunday

Reformation Sunday is a day that we celebrate Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and many other Reformers for helping the church find its way back to God's Word as being the only supreme authority for faith and life. This leads the church back to the glorious doctrines of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. On Reformation Sunday we are once again reminded of the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives. On Reformation Sunday, we return to the core of our faith: God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy. Helping us to continue to reform our lives.



The Truth That Is Freeing

Two key words are in today's gospel reading. These words are simple but profound, and not always easy to understand: "truth" and "free."

Truth is a word that has become questioned, disputed, and suspect. Many news sources and social media memes promote a distorted truth to try to confuse or mislead others. How do you know which sources to believe? What counts as truth now?

Jesus said that the truth will make you free. Even if we figure out what counts as truth, do we understand what it means to be free? We commonly think of freedom as being free from some obligation or limit others impose on us. We value individual autonomy and don't want anyone else to tell us what to do. While this kind of freedom is important in the civil realm, it is far from the freedom of Jesus.

So how do we put these two seemingly simple but complex words together and understand what Jesus means? In John's gospel, the word "truth" is not abstract; it is the reality of God revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Truth is knowing God through Jesus, and therefore knowing God as sacrificial love. This is the truth that sets us free. If we know God as revealed in Christ, then we know what true freedom is: freedom to love as God loves.

Martin Luther famously captured this truth when he said, in "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520), that Christians are truly free, subject to no one. And at the same time, Christians are servants of others called to love and care for them. This is the freedom we need and long for: freedom within a community of love. Jesus makes it possible for us by setting us free from having to become good enough for God to love us. God's love is the truth of the cross: extravagant, self-giving, and sure. We are truly free to love when we live in the love of God offered by Jesus.

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<u>10:00 am</u>

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Linda Melcher
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Bell Choir – Vicki MacKellar, Mike Kemper, Lisa Pohl, Francy Tobin, Anita Shaw, Joan
Hefflebower, Jan Rounds, and Kim Domke
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Community Worship and Meal is **TODAY.** Please join us after the service for our annual Heritage Meal. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

God's Creation Calendars are available for \$5.00 and are provided as a ministry of outreach for you to share with relatives, neighbors, coworkers, friends, teachers, letter carriers, the homebound and caregivers...anyone you think who would have their day brightened by this lovely calendar with its inspiring Bible verses. Pick up your calendars in the Gathering Area and pay in the envelopes provided. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, or on the parish administrator's desk.

Funeral Meal Coordinator Needed Your help is needed if you have interest in being a volunteer funeral meal coordinator. A funeral meal coordinator arranges and works with volunteers who wish to provide a lunch or dessert for funerals based on family requests. If you are interested and would like to work with other volunteers to provide this service to our congregation, please contact the church office or a social activities committee member.

Book Study A book study is being considered for Sunday mornings sometime this fall. If you are interested in studying <u>Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist</u>, please contact the church office or Pastor Ken. If we have enough interest, the study first session is November 19.

Trunk-or-Treat is <u>Tuesday from 5:00 - 8:00 PM</u>. We invite you to bring candy. We expect a large turnout once again. We ask room hosts to gather at the church around 4:00 PM to decorate your room.

Counters Needed Grace is in need of 1 new money counters. Training will be provided and you will serve on a rotating basis. Please let Deborah Wilke know if you would be interested.

Bratwurst Sale If you would like to order some homemade brats, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Brats will come frozen in packages of four and are \$6.00 per package.

Blood Drive On Monday, November 20 Grace will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive. You will be able to sign up to donate using the Red Cross app, or by calling the office to schedule with Brenda at 269.945.9414. We have appointments available from Noon until 5:15 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

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 each one of us. We don't need to ask, we don't need to be a good person, we don't need to have everything together. Jesus comes and saves us because he has authority in our lives. Jesus continues to reform our lives.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 52 Views: 268

Weekly Giving: \$1,250.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17



Grace Projects As you know, we have fully funded a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The Congregation Council has voted to have a fundraiser to replenish the funds we raised. Much like the roof deductible, we are seeking to make sure we have funds for any future property needs. The cost of the HVAC was \$25,252. We appreciate any contributions toward this future need of caring for our building.

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 Join us next week, as we begin studying Galatians. We gather in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am.

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.



The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students in need in Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims,

granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. In addition, November items are microwave popcorn, individual fruit cups, Knorr pasta sides, and canned chick noodle soup. The deadline for this month is November 27th.

All Saints Sunday All Saints Sunday will take place next Sunday, November 5. Today is the last day to list names to be included in the bulletin.

Community Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian is located at 405 North M-37 here in Hastings.