

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
November 5, 2023

All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

WE WELCOME ALL THE SAINTS to worship today, and yes that includes you as a saint of God. Today we remember with thanksgiving those who have lived and died in the faith. They are the sign of our hope and an image of the glory we shall inherit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music (8:00) *Blest Are They* arr. Mark Hayes, Cindy Olson, Piano
(10:45) *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In* Carla Neil, Piano
Tom Kuhs, Saxophone

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

All Saints Litany

- ☐ O God of the pilgrim's way,
☑ **we give thanks for those in generations past who were examples of God's love.**
- ☐ We give you praise, that we too are walking in your way of love.
☑ **Send your Holy Spirit to guide us on our journey.**
- ☐ Help us work in the world as people who show love to all.
☑ **Give us compassion for those who are poor, hungry, and suffering.**

- Ⓐ We rejoice that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
- ⓐ Let us be aware of their presence among us, as we stand on the promise of the resurrection.
- ⓑ Guide us to celebrate the love we share, as the saints did before us.
- ⓒ We celebrate that we are in communion with all your saints by the gift of grace. Amen.

Remembering the Saints

Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW pages 140-141

Refrain

ⓐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Ⓑ **Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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

Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

📖 A reading from **Revelation**.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

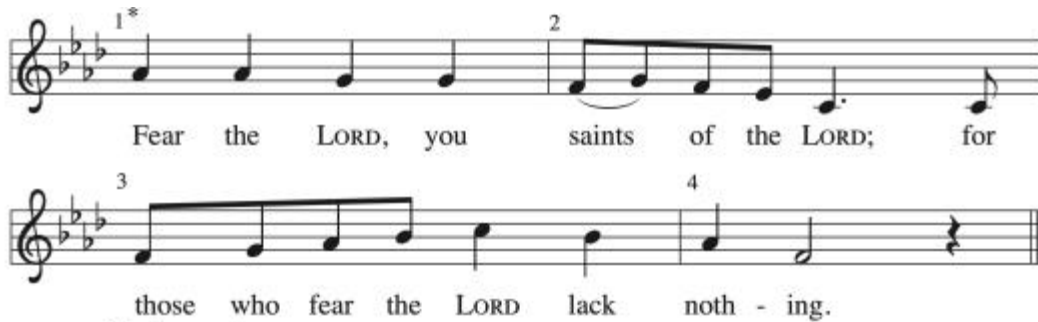
📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**


Psalm 34:1-10, 22



Refrain




¹I will bless the Lord¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be ¹ in my mouth.

**²I will glory¹ in the Lord;
let the lowly hear¹ and rejoice.** 

³Proclaim with me the greatness¹ of the Lord;
let us exalt God's¹ name together.

**⁴I sought the Lord, who¹ answered me
and delivered me from¹ all my terrors.**

⁵Look upon the Lord¹ and be radiant,
and let not your faces¹ be ashamed.


**⁶I called in my affliction, and¹ the Lord heard me
and saved me from¹ all my troubles.** 

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who¹ fear the Lord
and de-¹livers them.

**⁸Taste and see that the¹ Lord is good;
happy are they who take ref-¹uge in God!**

⁹Fear the Lord, you saints¹ of the Lord,
for those who fear the¹ Lord lack nothing.

**¹⁰The lions are in want and¹ suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing¹ that is good.**

²²O Lord, you redeem the life¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will¹ not be punished. 

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

☐ A reading from **1 John**:

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Page 151

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 5:1-12

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

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

☐ 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

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

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.***

☐ Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

☐ Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids; Hope Church of the Brethren, Freeport; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of Grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

A Holy creator, we marvel at your creation revealed in the cycle of seasons, changing landscapes, and the rise and fall of ocean tides. Turn us from selfish consumption and open us to gentle healing of the earth so all creation thrives. God of Grace.

G **Receive our prayer.**

A Holy advocate, we lift grateful hearts for the ability to vote and elect leaders. Grant wisdom to those who will be elected and safety to poll workers. May civic leaders serve the whole community, especially all who are underrepresented or oppressed. 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.

G **Receive our prayer.**

A Holy healer, bless the brokenhearted and all who mourn. Send your compassion to all who grieve, grant wholeness to those who are sick, and accompany the dying. Be near to all who need you *especially Veronica Baarson, Diana Brown, Doug Brown, the family of Audrey Burdick, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy and Kristen Cove, Jet Cover, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, the family of Pastor Betsy Kamphuis, Norma Ludlow, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Randy Teegardin, Jeanette Ulrich, and Al Throop*. God of Grace.

G **Receive our prayer.**

A Holy comforter, we pray for this congregation, that the promise of your new life may be shared and experienced. We pray for the funeral ministry of this congregation, that families and friends seeking your love find it here.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Holy One, for the saints who now rest in your mercy, we give you thanks. We remember their witness of faithfulness and love. Praise to you for the eternal life they have been given through Jesus Christ. God of Grace.

G **Receive our prayer.**

P We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439

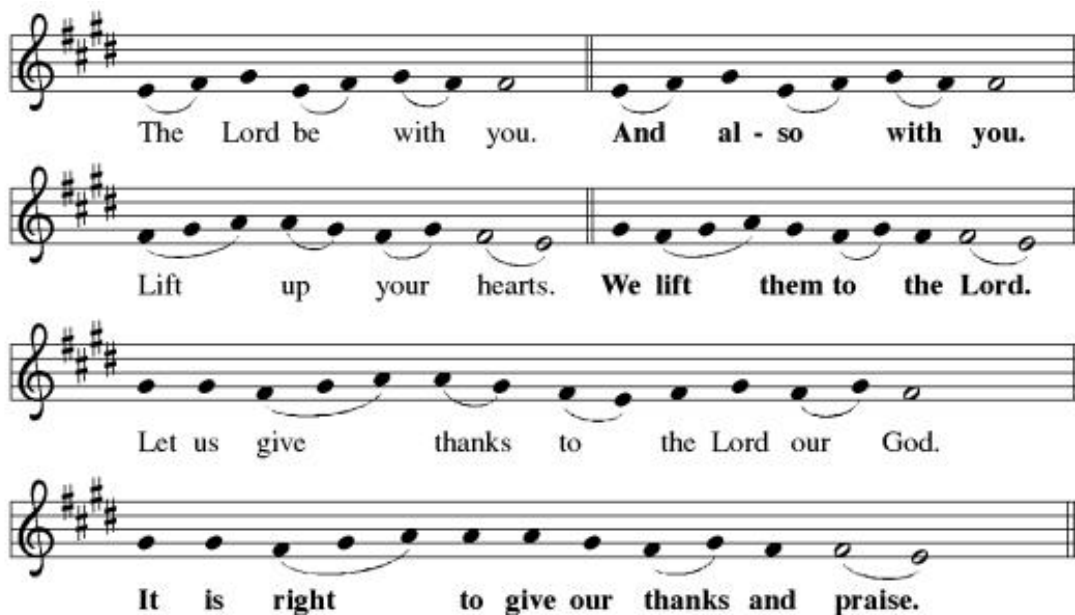
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- Ⓒ **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

- Ⓐ 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 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:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
 - ☑ **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.**
 - ☐ 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.**
 - ☐ 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.
 - ☑ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**
 - ☐ 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

- ☐ 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

- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit.

Lamb of God

TFF Page 39

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

Communion Songs

*One Bread, One Body
I am the Bread of Life*

ELW 496
ELW 485

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- C** 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

- P** God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
- C** Amen.

Sending Song

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In

ACS 950



1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the
2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they
5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that
hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.
num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Sending

- A** Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Beloved Saints

“He must be a real saint!” “She was such a saint!” We say these things about people we know, or have heard of, often in reference to someone who displays great patience or perhaps is extraordinarily kind and generous. It’s not difficult to find such praise at a funeral, for example, as the deceased’s positive influence in the world is remembered. In popular usage, a person earns the title “saint” by doing good works. We think of people such as Saint Francis or Saint Teresa, individuals who were known for being particularly holy or religious. We rarely consider that we ourselves might be saints. After all, most of us haven’t opened orphanages or founded hospitals, given away all our possessions or been imprisoned because of our faith. Even demonstrating exceptional patience toward irritating people or circumstances is beyond most of us on far too many days.

But the scripture readings today make clear that being a saint is not about earning the title. According to the Bible, the “saints” are simply the believers in Christ across time and space. In baptism, our robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). *Saint* is a title given to us by God—not as a reward for a job well done, but as an expression of God’s love for us. The characteristic of a saint is not superhuman perfection but rather faith. Faith that the sorrows we mourn, the injustices we encounter, and the persecution we face will one day be put right through the blood of the Lamb. Faith that recognizes and laments the awful brokenness of the world, and of ourselves, and trusts Christ to forgive our sins, wipe away our tears, and make all things new. So, cling to Christ, dear saint, and rejoice that you are God’s beloved child—*now* (1 John 3:2).

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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 – Traci Wales

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Cantor – Ken Scheck II

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

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. They are provided at a low cost to purchase and share, and are not a fundraiser. 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. Thanks for supporting this ministry.

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 Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, please contact the church office or Pastor Ken. The first study session is November 19.

Counter Needed Grace is in need of a new money counter. 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 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.

Hastings Women's Club is having a fundraiser for their scholarship fund at the Hastings Culver's on Tuesday, November 14th from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. You can enjoy a great meal in the dining room, or the drive-through. See Deborah Wilke for more information.

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 makes each of us a saint. It is by God's work that we are made a child of God, who is blessed by God's rich grace, mercy, and peace.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 67
Weekly Giving: \$2,215.00
Helping Hands: \$91.00

Views: 232
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 this week, as we begin studying Galatians. We meet 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.**

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.

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome.