

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 12, 2023

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 12, 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

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P** As the earth shows signs of seasons end, the life and peace we share in the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer be with you all.
- G** **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

Opening Sentences

- P** We thank you, O God, for still creating.
- G** **We bless you for the abundant harvest you provide.**

- A** We are blessed with your mercy and power of life.
- G** **All of creation gives you praise.**

- P** We see the diversity of your creation.
- G** **We give you praise for the hues you show forth today and for all time. Amen**

Refrain

1 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... O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
- Ⓑ Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

📖 A reading from **Amos**.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-10, 22



Refrain




¹Be pleased, O God, to de-^liver me;
O LORD, make ^lhaste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame ^land confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and ^lbe disgraced.** 

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat ^lover me
turn back because ^lof their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be ^lglad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great ^lis the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick-^lly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, ^ldo not tarry. 

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

📖 A reading from **1 Thessalonians:**

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

📖 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 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

☐ 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

When Peace Like a river

ELW 785

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 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.

A O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids; Hope United Methodist, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. 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.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Be near to all who need you *especially Pastor Michael Anton, 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, Norma Ludlow, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Rick Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, and Al Throop*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. God of Grace.
- ☒ **Receive our prayer.**
- Ⓟ We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
- ☒ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . 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.**

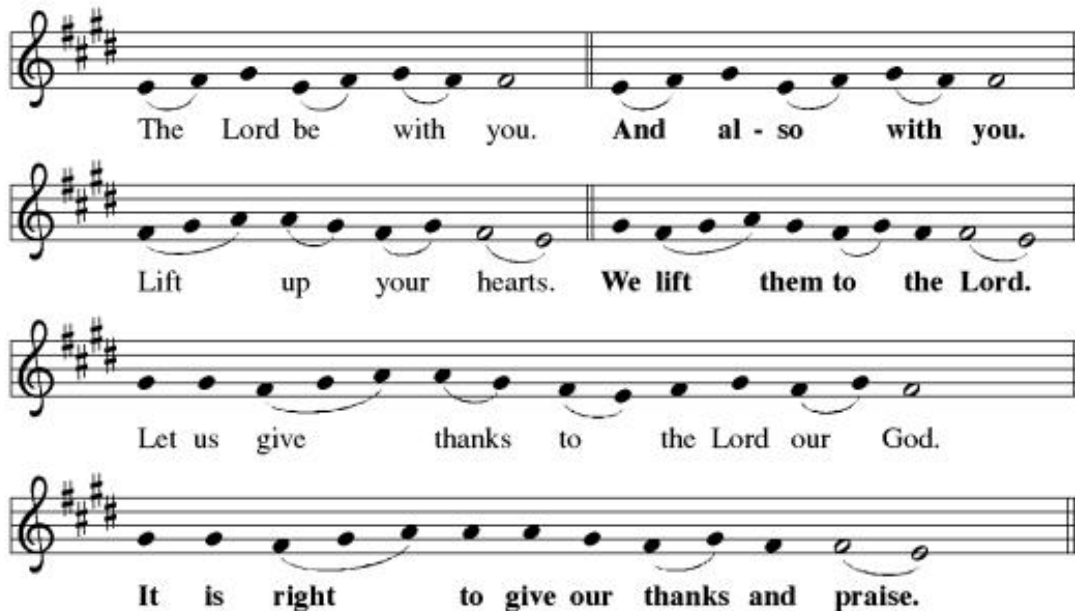
Sharing the Peace of God

☐ 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

Blessed Assurance
Eat This Bread

WOV 699
WOV 709

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

- Ⓐ 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.
- ☩ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Soon and Very Soon

WOV 744

Sending

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

Postlude

Enough and Never Enough

Both the harsh words of the prophet Amos and the parable of the bridesmaids are scenes of anger—not pointless, misdirected frustration, but a prophetic call for change, a passionate plea that we redirect our focus. Sometimes, Amos says, anger is a result of not being heard. And sometimes, Jesus says, anger comes from fear of not being enough, not having enough, not doing enough. But being a child of God comes as a gift from God, who has poured out God’s justice and righteousness on us in abundance so that we may care about those who are lacking.

What good is worship, Amos asks, if it doesn’t change your lives—or that of your neighbors? What good is worship if it does not spur us to make justice happen for our siblings? The anger we encounter in Amos is of the righteous kind, the kind intended to call us to action.

In contrast, the anger expressed in the parable of the bridesmaids is that born of fear. Who ever said that the bridegroom would not admit maidens who ran out of oil? Both the bridesmaids described as wise and those described as foolish are angry because of fear of missing out. Jesus is the light of the world, and so are you, he says (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). But when your light grows dim and tired, exhausted and weary, and you cannot see the road ahead, his light will guide the way.

How different this parable might be if the bridesmaids with oil had shared their oil. *If you are not ready*, they might have said, *let us show you how to be prepared*. What good is the kingdom of heaven if we have not lived our lives in such a way as to light the pathway for others? What good is worship if we leave the building unmoved by the cries for justice all around us?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Watson Family

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 invites us to hear the invitation that all are welcome into the celebration. Let us be prepared to receive this invitation and continue to share God's grace with others.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 59
Weekly Giving: \$3,832.00
Helping Hands from Pasty Sale: \$1,679.00

Views: 268
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.

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

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 NEXT Sunday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian is located at 405 North M-37 here in Hastings.

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 this **Tuesday, November 14th from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.** You can enjoy a great meal in the dining room, or get it to go from the drive-through. See Deborah Wilke for more information.

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