

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
November 19, 2023

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 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

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

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... Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.
- ☑ **Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

- 📖 A reading from **Zephaniah.**

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-12



Refrain



¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**

³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;** ☒

⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.** ☒

⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

**¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?

**¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.** ☒

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

☒ A reading from **1 Thessalonians**:

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

☒ 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 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

☞ 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

Lord of Light

ELW 688

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.

Ⓐ Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrissy and David, our synod companions Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Hudsonville; Inter-Lakes Baptist Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of Grace.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. God of Grace.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. 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.**

Ⓐ You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Doug Brown, the family of Audrey Burdick, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy and Kristen Cove, Jet Cover, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Norma Ludlow, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Rick Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, and Al Throop.* God of Grace.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. God of Grace.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. 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.

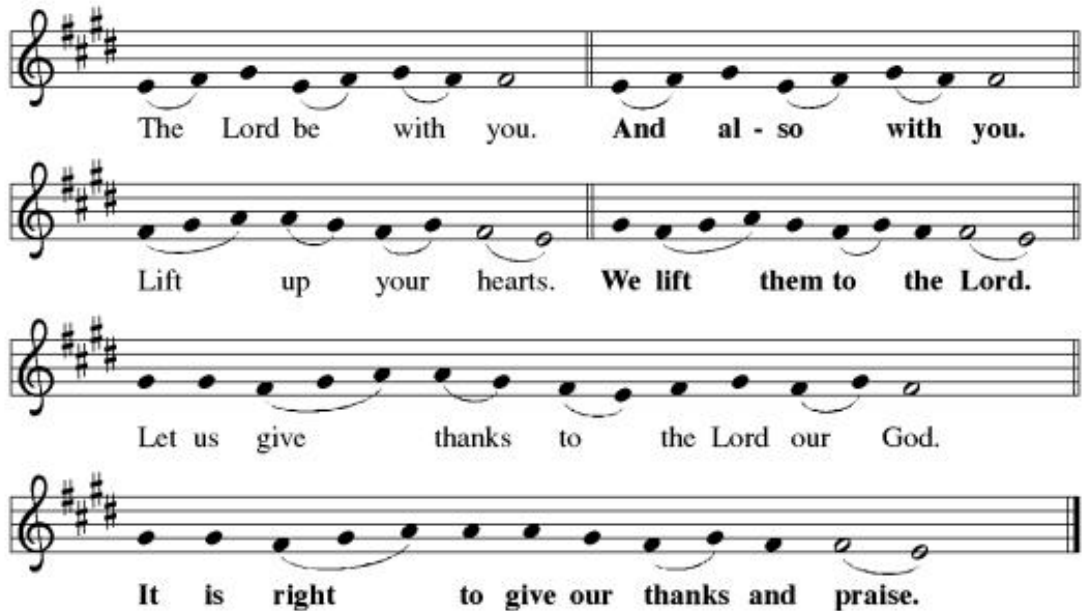
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ 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 al - so 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'r and might,
 heav'n 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

ELW page 154

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

*Here is Bread
 Christ Be Our Light*

ELW 483
 ELW 715

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

You are Mine

ELW 581

Sending

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

Postlude

Serving Today

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 – Vickey Argo
Lector – Joe Longcor
Cantor – Mary Kuhlman
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

God's Creation Calendars are available for \$5.00.

Book Study A book study is being done entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The first study session is today. Come and join us.

Who's Got Talent?

Jon Bloom is a cofounder of the Desiring God organization. Speaking to the parable of the talents, he suggests that being given one talent can appear unfair, can wound our pride. He is regularly tempted, he says, to covet his neighbors' talents. And isn't that always the way? Discounting our own gifts, we envy the abilities of others. And yet, Bloom points out, such behavior is, at its core, the sin of pride.

Our love of God can get eclipsed and our loving relationships with others can be damaged by such pride, which costs us any desire to be a good steward of the gifts God has given us. Hence the description of the last servant as "wicked" and "lazy" (Matthew 25:26). Being given a single talent means less of a chance to really impress the master and improve the servant's own position. Therefore, the servant believes, the master is harsh and unjust.

Pride infects all of us, no matter how many talents we have. In a number of parables, Jesus takes aim at people with a generous amount of prestige, wealth, and power. That's why this parable stings so much. Jesus is talking to all of us. We can and must be on the lookout for the sin of pride, which is at the root of so many unhealthy behaviors. Pride takes so many forms, including discouragement, self-pity, and hopelessness. Every single one of us is a cherished and deeply loved child of God—and God has blessed every single one of us, richly, with talents. Making the effort to be good stewards of the talents we have is a fine way to shut down self-pity and the sin of pride. God has reasons for giving us exactly the talents we have.

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Bratwurst Sale There are some Bratz that are still available, if interested please see Joe Longcor. Brats come frozen in packages of four and are \$6.00 per package.

Blood Drive TOMORROW Grace is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive. It's not too late to sign up through the app and we are still welcoming volunteers if you are free.

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

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 share our talents and to use them instead of burying them. Let us be prepared to share God's grace that is given us with others.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 53
Weekly Giving: \$990.00
Noisy Offering: \$56.50
Sunday School: \$200.00

Views: 366
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 continue our study of Galatians. We meet in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am. Today we study Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist.

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 **TODAY** at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian is located at 405 North M-37 here in Hastings.