

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 4, 2024

The season of Epiphany has begun and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God and continues to reveal Jesus to the world during these days. The season of Epiphany celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world. Today's color is white reminding us of God's cleansing power for each and every one of us.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Song

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 617

Greeting

P The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.

G **And also with you.**

A The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

G **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.

G **We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.**

A Jesus said, "I am the light of the world..."

G **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, and wind sweeping over the waters.

G **Amen.**

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you

health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passioned re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;

for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.
- Ⓒ **Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Ⓔ A reading from **Isaiah**:

- ²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- ²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

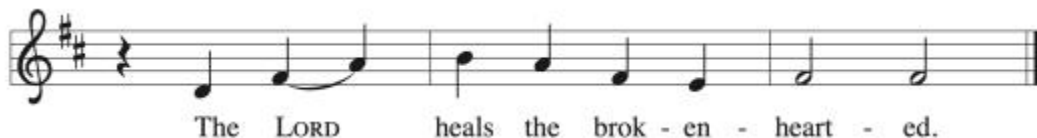
📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c



Refrain



¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises¹ to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor¹ God with praise!

**²The LORD re-¹ builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex-¹ iles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the¹ brokenhearted
and binds¹ up their wounds.

**⁴The LORD counts the number¹ of the stars
and calls them all¹ by their names. **R****

⁵Great is our LORD and might-¹ y in power;
there is no limit¹ to God's wisdom.

**⁶The LORD lifts¹ up the lowly,
but casts the wicked¹ to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD¹ with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp¹ to our God,

**⁸who covers the heav-¹ ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up-¹ on the mountains. **R****

⁹God provides food¹ for the cattle
and for the young ravens¹ when they cry.

**¹⁰God is not impressed by the might¹ of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed¹ of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who¹ fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

☒ A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Come and See

ACS 976

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see. What are you looking for? Come and see. Come and see."

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

▮ The Holy Gospel, according to **Mark**.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

▮ 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

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW 773

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Reveal your love, O Lord.***

Ⓐ As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Ⓐ Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David; our synod companion churches Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ludington; Nashville Assembly of God; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you.

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. We lift our hearts to you.

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. 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).* We lift our hearts to you.

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, The Family of Charlene Hall, Lorraine Handsbarger, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Andy Lamb, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Rick Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson.* We lift our hearts to you.

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. We lift our hearts to you.

Ⓒ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

Ⓐ Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ⓒ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

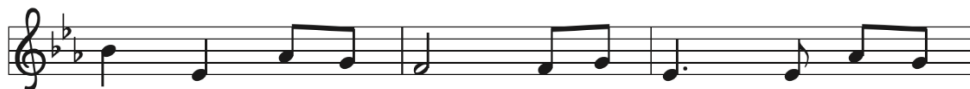
Offertory Song

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



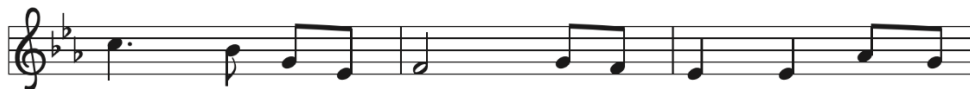
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
- Ⓒ **In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, God of pow - er, God of might;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord;



Bles-sed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Table Prayer

- ☞ Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
- ☞ **From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.**
- ☞ 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await Christ's coming again in righteousness and peace.
- ☞ **Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share.**
- ☞ We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame. We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.
- ☞ **Be for us our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. 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

- ☐ At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit.

Communion Songs

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord ELW 787
My Life Flows on in Endless Song ELW 763

Prayer after Communion

- ☐ Giver of every gift,
- ☑ **Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body . Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- ☐ God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you ✚ bless you and remain with you always.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW 860

Sending

- ☐ Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

A Fiercely Tender Love

Think of a lioness; perhaps you've seen one in a nature documentary. Her power is palpable, even through the TV screen. She is strong and fierce, able to expertly take down prey and defend her pride from danger. She is also gentle, grooming her tiny cubs carefully in the afternoon sun. With the same strong jaws she is able both to kill an enemy and to carry her young gingerly by the scruff of their neck. Jesus' power is something like that: just as mighty as it is tender.

Jesus casts out demons relentlessly. In a single evening, he exorcises an entire city's worth! Jesus' power over the demons is so complete that he doesn't even permit them to speak. What are the demons in your own life, or in your community? What forces seek to dominate or control? What systems cause hurt or destruction? Out of God's great love for us, Jesus grapples with each and every source of pain, oppression, and suffering in the world.

With that same power, Jesus gently lifts Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, and her fever is gone. In a tender bedside moment, she is healed personally, intimately, and completely. This woman, ordinary and unnamed in Mark's gospel except by her relation to her son-in-law, is still not so unimportant as to escape Jesus' notice and care. And neither are we.

Jesus bathes us in the waters of salvation and defends us from danger. He feeds us at the table of mercy and carries us tenderly into abundant life. We are protected, healed, and loved by the One who created the cosmos, who possesses power to destroy any earthly power, yet who "gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isaiah 40:29). Like cubs learning from their mother, we rise and follow so that our lives might show forth that same fiercely tender love.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Tim Schoessel

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Jamie Heise

Cantor – Ken Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – The Watson Family

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

Adult Forum please join us today at 9:30 as we continue our study of Galatians.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at 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. For February, they are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta. **The deadline for February is the 25th.** Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program.

The Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity are a local group of people dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. Their fundamental belief is Every individual, regardless of their background, deserves to be valued, respected and included. In the month of February, they are hosting a series of events at the Hastings Library called ***Lift Every Voice***. Please see flyer below.



Celebrations of Cultures with Local Lifestories

Create a more inclusive and accepting community to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures and perspectives that make Hastings vibrant and unique.

Feb 12 - Native American Lifestory

Feb 19 - Puerto Rican & Hispanic Lifestories

Feb 26 - Documentary "I am Not Your Negro"

inspired by James Baldwin's manuscript which bios the works of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, & Martin Luther King Jr

6:00 pm

Hastings Public Library Community Room



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 reveals God's presence in our lives. It is by God's grace 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: 45
Weekly Giving: \$1,460.00

Views: 348
Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is **February 18 at 9:30**

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.

Community Ash Wednesday Service February 14, 2024, at **12 noon** will be held at Green Street United Methodist Church. Please join our ecumenical partners in providing unity in the body of Christ by attending. The theme of the worship service is **Forgiveness**. Pastor Ken Scheck will be doing the sermon. Information about the other community Lenten services is located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Ash Wednesday Here at Grace February 14, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. meal provided before worship starting at 6:15 p.m.

Look for the Lenten Devotional which is available in the Gathering Area. This year the title is *Lifted Up in Love* by Henri J.M. Nouwen.

Meals for Lent Traditionally Grace Lutheran Church has shared a meal on Wednesdays of Lent followed by worship. If you are interested in providing a meal, please let Pastor Ken or Brenda know. Each of these meals begin at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. Join us on Wednesdays in February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20.

Worship Committee will be meeting today after the 10:45 worship service. All are welcome to join them.

Please Join Us Next Sunday, February 11 at the 10:45 service as we celebrate Raylan Gibbon's First Communion. Cake reception to follow.