

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Greeting

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

☑ **now is the day of salvation.**

☐ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Refrain



Last time





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,



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

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray...O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death.
- Ⓑ **Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

📖 A reading from **Numbers**:

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22



Refrain



You de - li-ver your peo - ple from their dis-tress.


¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy en-dures forever.

**²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.


**¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

**¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress. **

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

**²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. 

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

📖 A reading from **Ephesians**:

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

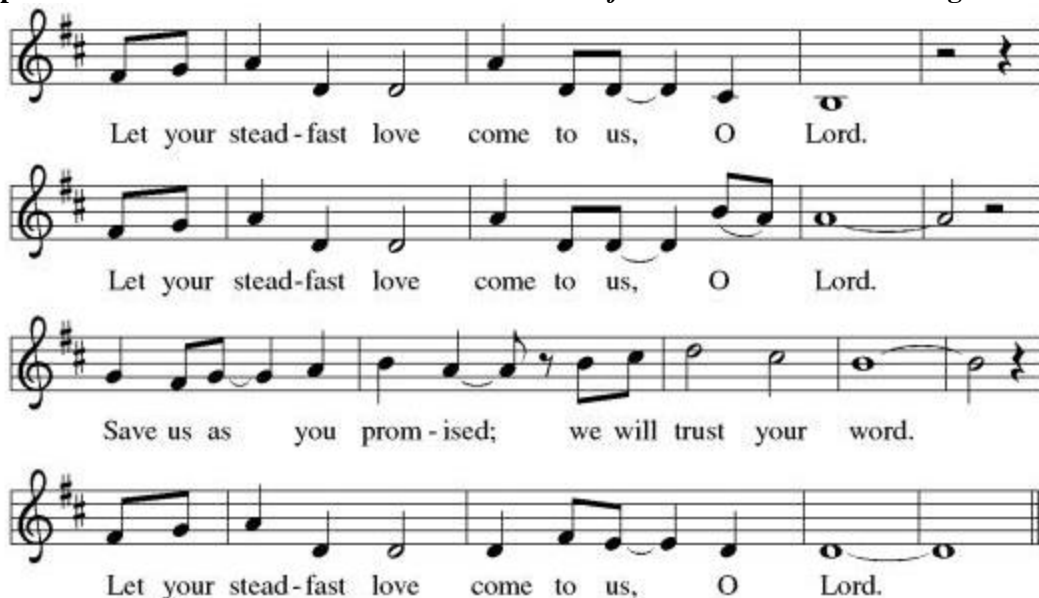
🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Let Your Steadfast Love

Page 181 ELW



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

☐ 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

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

Nicene Creed

☐ Let us proclaim our faith together:

☑ **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

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.***

- Ⓐ Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

- Ⓐ Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Guide and direct with your love *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan Center; Parmalee United Methodist Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you.

☞ Reveal your love, O Lord.

- Ⓐ Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth’s fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. We lift our hearts to you.

☞ Reveal your love, O Lord.

- Ⓐ Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. 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.

- Ⓐ Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain specially *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Donna Buehl, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Lorraine Handsbarger, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, the Family of Carolyn O’Connor, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson.* We lift our hearts to you.

☞ Reveal your love, O Lord.

A Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. We lift our hearts to you.

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. We lift our hearts to you.

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,

G **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

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

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Table Prayer

☐ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first 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

☐ Come to Jesus, our host, and our meal.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion

*Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**ELW 808
ELW 779**

Prayer after Communion

☐ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

☑ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☐ God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

☑ **Amen**

Dismissal

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

Postlude**Lifted Up for Us**

“So must the Son of Man be lifted up,” Jesus says. There is a double meaning to this. Just as God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole to effect healing for the Israelites (Numbers 21:4-9), Jesus will be lifted on the pole of the cross. The image of Jesus crucified reveals how human power tries to dehumanize those who threaten the status quo or violate the norms decreed by those at the top of society’s ladder. It is a horror to consider this happening to anyone, but so much more when the victim is the perfect Holy One, God in the flesh. It confronts us with humanity’s rejection of God, in how we treat other human beings and in how we dehumanize ourselves by following our sinful impulses—what Ephesians calls “the passions of our flesh” (2:3).

This, though, is not the only meaning of Jesus being “lifted up,” for “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” The cross is more than the humiliation of Jesus; it is also his glorious exaltation. The crucifixion of Jesus is his coronation as Lord of all, who rules by grace and mercy. By defeating death in the resurrection, he will indeed disrupt the status quo of shame, violence, and greed through the power of love, truth, and peace.

This was prefigured in the story of poisonous serpents. When the people looked on the emblem of their sin, a bronze model of the snakes that poisoned them after they grumbled against the Lord, they were healed. So, too, when we turn to the Crucified One, we do not find condemnation but salvation. Beholding the Savior lifted up on the cross by our sin, we receive mercy and healing. In the death of Jesus, God forgives and embraces us with eternal life. In the proclamation, prayer, song, and sacraments of our assembly, we remember and affirm that the crucified yet exalted Christ extends saving love to us and to the world.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister –Mark Anton
Lector –Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Pastor Frank Rothfuss

10:45 am

Assisting Minister –Kate Watson
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor –Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Pastor Frank Rothfuss
Fellowship – The Watson Family

Called to the Church Triumphant our sister in Christ, Carolyn O’Conner Carolyn passed away on Monday, March 4. The family is being served by Girrbach Funeral Home and arrangements are pending. Messages of love and sympathy can be sent to Carolyn’s sister, Shirley Beck, at Hope Landing, 1252 North Cochran #116, Charlotte, MI 48813. May Carolyn’s family feel the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ as they mourn her loss.

Turkeyville Dinner Theater *Oklahoma* is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th (or alternate date of Friday, May 17th). Tickets are \$65 each and the deadline for purchasing tickets is **Sunday, March 17th**. Please check the bulletin board for sign up information.

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Joe Longcor leading the study.

Grace Youth are Invited to commUNITY Youth Bash on March 22, 5-11pm, at the Hastings CERC 6th-12th grades invited. Tons of activities: Christian speaker, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, 9Square, Nerf Wars, swim-in (swimming with a movie), pizza, and more! Pastor Emma Miller of the Hastings Free Methodist Church has sent a flyer with additional information which has been posted in the gathering area. Youth may register by scanning the QR code.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist is led by Pastor Paul Kuhlman. The next study session is **March 17, at 9:30**.

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.

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.



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. They are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta. **The deadline for March is the 31st**. Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program. The Hand2Hand program now serves over 80 disadvantaged children from Hastings schools.

Thank you from Hand2Hand Coordinator, Andi Schmidt “Many students are blessed by your generous food donations. Thank you for your giving heart, and for making a difference in the lives of many students. Our hope is the food bags offer a sense of relief throughout the school year, and in addition, lift spirits. We believe each student we serve is precious and loved, and we the bags help them feel that way as well. Kids thrive on the consistency of a weekend bag, and it takes away the mental toll of worrying and wondering when they get their next meal. Thank you for supporting healthy bodies and minds through Hand2Hand.”

Meals for Lent Each Lenten meal begins at 6:15 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. Join us on Wednesdays in March on the 13th, and 20th. This Wednesday, March 13, will be hosted by the Social Activities Committee. The meal will be sloppy Joes and barbeque, pork & beans, rolls, salad, and dessert. Proceeds will go to the Hand2Hand program.

Easter Flower Sale If you would like to purchase flowers from the Easter flower sale, please turn in your order form and money by Monday, March 25th. This year we have daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and Easter lilies available. If you would like to donate a flower to someone, please indicate in the space provided on the order form.

Email Phishing Scam Please be aware that someone has been sending out emails which appear to be from church, but they are not. Please look at the actual address of the sender to make sure it's not from a scammer. You will never be asked for money from church emails and the only address we use is parishadmin@grace-hastings.com.

Good Friday Cross Walk A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area for those who plan to participate in the Cross Walk this year either by walking, reading a scripture passage, volunteering to serve as a driver for the follow vehicle, or to help provide refreshments. Thank you from the Outreach Committee for being a part of this 50+ year tradition in our community.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

**Worship Service
at 7:15 pm
March 28**

Cross Walk

**Good Friday
at 9:30 am
March 29**

Good Friday

**Worship Service
at 7:15 pm
March 29**

Sonrise

**Worship Service
at 8:00 am
March 31**

Easter

**Worship Service
10:45 am
March 31**

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.

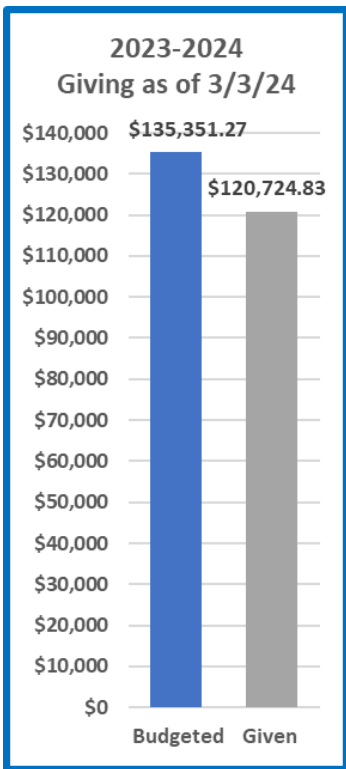


Attendance: 45
 Weekly Giving: \$2,237.00
 February Online Giving: \$2,400.56
 Lenten Mid-Week Community Noon Meal for Barry County Cares: \$180.00
 Lenten Mid-Week Meal for Barry County Cares: \$112.00

Views: 348
 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Grace Projects Goal **\$25,252.00**
 Received To Date - \$ 520.00
Total Needed **\$ 24,732.00**

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00



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.

We welcome Pastor Frank Rothfuss as preacher and presider today. Pastor Rothfuss is the brother of Cindy Hubbard. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Scheck is taking time away seeking God’s peace, healing, and transformation. We are thankful for God’s Holy Spirit who sustains Grace Lutheran Church during this time of refreshment, renewal, and trust in God’s guidance during this time.

Community Wednesday Service March 13, at **12 noon** will be held at Hastings Nazarene Church. Please join our ecumenical partners in providing unity in the body of Christ by attending. The theme of the worship service is **Thirst**. Pastor Nick Marlatt will be doing the presentation. Information about this and the other community Lenten services is located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.