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 May 26, 2024

Holy Trinity

May 26, 2024

Holy Trinity is the day that Christians celebrate the gift of God's presence revealed through Jesus Christ. When Christ came to earth, we realize we have a God who takes care of us like a loving parent, that God came to share salvation by healing, teaching, and forgiving our sins by dying on the cross, and finally gives us continued presence through the Holy Spirit. The colors of the day are white and gold for the purity of God and life we are given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

- P O Lord, open our lips,
- **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**
- A Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
- **G** that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- P Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
- who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.



Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- A Let us pray... Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three.
- **©** Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

L A reading from **Isaiah**:

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 29



Refrain



¹Ascribe to the [|]LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glo- [|]ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name; worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. ■

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

⁷The voice | of the LORD bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

8The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. ■

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. ■

Second Reading Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

L A reading from **Romans**:

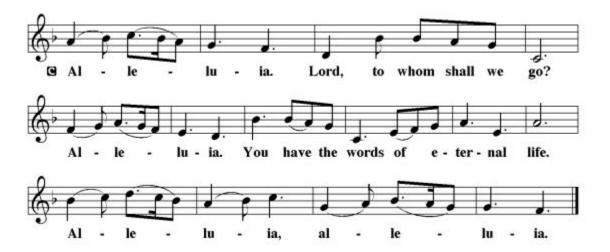
¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Please arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

WOV page 31



Gospel Reading John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

- P The Holy Gospel according to **John.**
- **ఆ** Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

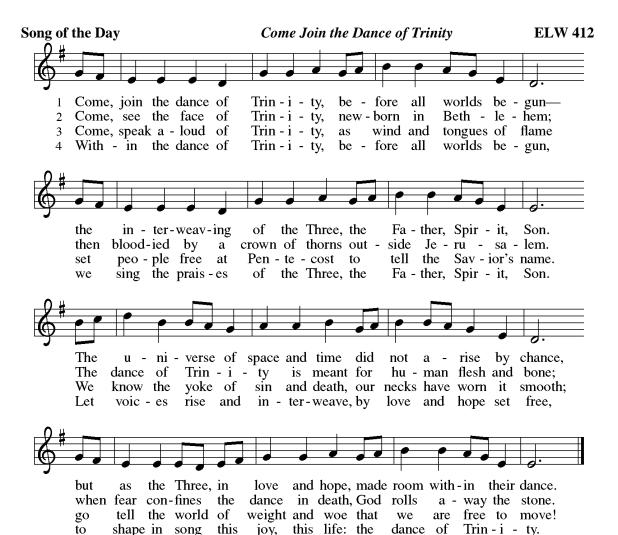
Please be seated.

Children's Message

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

Please arise in body or spirit.



Please be seated.

to

shape in song

this

Pravers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, Merciful God. The assembly prays, Receive our prayer.

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence

- Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity. Watch over and direct Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plainwell; Saint Andrew & Matthias Anglican Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Merciful God.
- **☑** Receive our prayer.
- A Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come. Merciful God.
- **☑** Receive our prayer.
- A Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict. 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). Merciful God.
- **©** Receive our prayer.
- A You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing especially Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, the Domke family on the arrival of Peter James (grandparents Ed and Kim Domke), Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Lorraine Handsbarger, the Heise family on the arrival of the arrival of Walker James, Virginia Henion, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Jan Northrup, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, Barry Swanson, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson. Merciful God.
- **☑** Receive our prayer.
- A The Spirit bears grateful witness to all children of God who have now come into their inheritance among the saints. Merciful God.
- **©** Receive our prayer.

Here other intersessions may be offered.

- P As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence even in this mortal life.
- Amen.

Sharing the Peace of God

- P The peace of Christ be with you.
- And also with you.

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



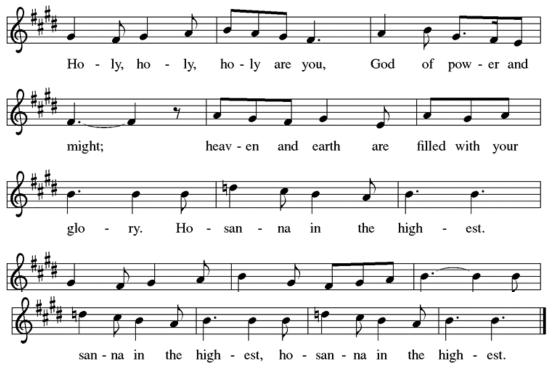
Offering Prayer

- ⚠ 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 risen body in the world. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **☑** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



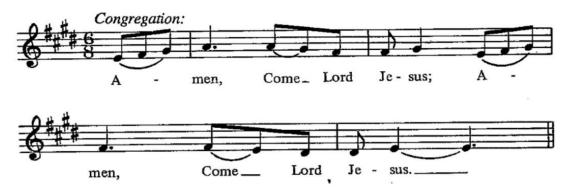
Seventh Sunday of Easter Page 11

Table Prayer

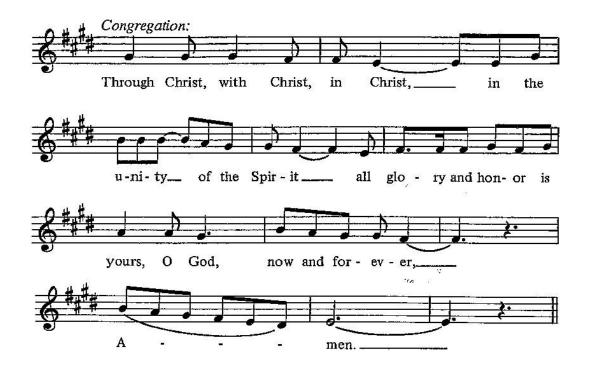
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.
- **B** By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
- P 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 in remembrance of me.
- P 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 in remembrance of me.
- P With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

- P Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- **Make** us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.
- P Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus.



- P Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.
- P All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.



Lord's Prayer

- P 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

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

we



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,



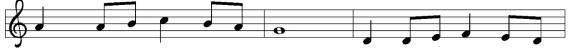
eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac ri -
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass a way;
- 3 Love the one who, in love for you, as Dwell the one who now dwells in you; in
- 5 Drink of this cup and de clare his death;

giv - ing set your gave him -

make your eat this



hun - gry ones, round. thanks, gath - er on the food that en - dures. hearts self for the life of the world. the life - giv - ing Word. home in bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn: Eat, all of you, and be Come, learn the true and the Come to the one who is Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly trust his re - turn and, with

fice;



sat - is - fied; liv - ing way, food for you, One of God, ev - 'ry breath,

in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound. that the full - ness of life may be yours. that your hun - ger and thirst be no more. truth you have heard. be - lieve in the and praise the one in whom you are re - born.



Prayer after Communion

- Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- **G** Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- Amen.



Seventh Sunday of Easter Page 16

Sending

- **A** Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

8:00 am
Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Amy Poholski
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am
Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – The Schecks

How Can These Things Be?

Given the many heated encounters between Jesus and Pharisees, the term *Pharisee* has become, for some, another word for "enemy of truth" or "opponent of God's promises for the world." In communities where divisions over what is true and false, good and bad, have become iron-clad, often rankling relationships, it may seem familiar—even honorable—to hiss at Pharisees. But that wasn't Jesus' way.

Think first about people like the Samaritan woman at the well, or a centurion in Rome's brutal occupying army, or a scandalous prostitute, or an executioner driving nails into Jesus' flesh—people that might have been easily discarded. Yet Jesus related to them in compassion and mercy, not exclusion.

Then think of Nicodemus, meeting Jesus at night, calling him "a teacher who has come from God." Nicodemus is a Pharisee but he is hardly an enemy of truth opposing God's way in the world. Moreover, with one word, "we," he includes other Pharisees like himself who wish to accompany Jesus in God's kingdom.

The perplexing nighttime conversation that leaves Nicodemus in a state of wonderment—"How can these things be?"—leads to Jesus' climactic revelation: "God so loved the world..." In the gospel's original Greek, "world" (*kosmos*) indicates that literally every bit of the universe receives God's mercy and compassion, saving us all from perishing into iron-clad division between who is in and who it out.

How can these things be? On this Sunday that celebrates the wonder of the Trinity, the answer comes from God the Creator, saying that creation is good; from God the Redeemer, teaching us to love the world as God loves it; and from God the Spirit, continuing to draw us into wonderment. That's how this can be.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Seventh Sunday of Easter Page 17

The Brothers of Grace will not be meeting in June, July, or August. They will resume again in the fall so keep an eye out for more info in upcoming bulletins and GraceGrams.

The 2024 Grace Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, JULY 14th at 9:30 am. Please plan to attend. Please submit all reports for the Annual Meeting by Sunday, June 2nd.

<u>Time and Talent Surveys</u> are now available in the Gathering Area. <u>Please return completed</u> forms into the collection folder (also located in the Gathering Area by July 1). Thank you.

Commitment Sunday pledge forms can be placed in the offering plate, or dropped off at the office. If you need a form they are available in the Gathering Aread by the Time and Talent collection envelope. We thank you for your continued support of ministry the ministries here at Grace.

Bell Choir Outing Wednesday, June 12th the bell choir will be visiting Woodlawn Meadows memory care building for a 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. concert. (Please note, this is a date change from Thursday, June 6.) All are welcome to participate in singing along with familiar hymns and to experience other fun musical pieces performed by the youth handbell choir and a few friends from the adult choir. The concert will last approximately 40 minutes. For more information contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024.

Fifth Sunday Fellowship There will be a combined service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 30th the Social Activities Committee is sponsoring a fifth Sunday fellowship time. Special treats will be available after the worship service. We look forward to seeing you!

Help Wanted Grace is seeking a treasurer for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Please contact Tim Schoessel if you are interested. We thank Linda Maupin for her service.

Welcome to worship today! We are thrilled that you are here. 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 risen Christ who breathes new life into us.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 64 Views: 304

Weekly Giving: \$637.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17



 Grace Projects Goal
 \$25,252.00

 Received To Date
 -\$ 2,255.00

 Total Needed
 \$23,007.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$0.00

Staff Computer Offering the two church laptops have outgrown their capabilities to support the work of both Pastor Ken and Cindy. We are collecting a special offering to cover this expense. When donating, please indicate "computer fund" on your envelope. Thank you so much for support for this important purchase.

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. A reminder that the nursery will not be available on Sunday, June 2^{nd} .

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Pastor Ken leading the study.

Vehicle Needed Aurora, our nursery attendant, needs to borrow a car so she can take her driving test. If you can help, please call her at 269.953.5200.

Annual Grace Church Picnic You are cordially invited to the annual Grace picnic at the home of Phil and Amy Poholski (6810 Highland Drive, Middleville) on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>June 9th</u>. Hotdogs, condiments, chips, lemonade, and iced tea are provided. Please bring a lawn chair if you are able, and walking shoes if you would like to walk through the woods. If you are planning on bringing a dish to pass (which is optional) please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. The picnic is held regardless of rain or shine. We hope to see you there.

Women of Faith meet <u>Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.</u> A reminder that <u>we will **NOT** meet on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>May 29</u>, which is the day following Memorial Day. Our final meeting for the year will be <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>June 11</u> and we will resume in the fall.</u>