

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
July 14, 2024

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

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.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

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

Gathering Song

We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW 518

Refrain

We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are
giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-geth-er
joined, the great-est and the least, we all are
one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.



1 Wis - dom calls through - out the cit - y, knows our
 2 Sim - ple ones whose hearts are yearn - ing, come and
 3 En - ter with de - light and sing - ing, for her



hun - ger, and in pit - y gives her lov - ing in - vi -
 gain from Wis - dom's learn - ing; bread and wine she is pre -
 rich - ness now is bring - ing us this joy - ous cel - e -



ta - tion to the ban - quet of sal - va - tion.
 par - ing, know her lov - ing in the shar - ing.
 bra - tion; eat and drink in ju - bi - la - tion.

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ 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

- ☐ Let us pray... O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.
 - ☑ **Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
- Amen.**

Please be seated.

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

📖 A reading from **Amos**:

⁷ This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’”

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

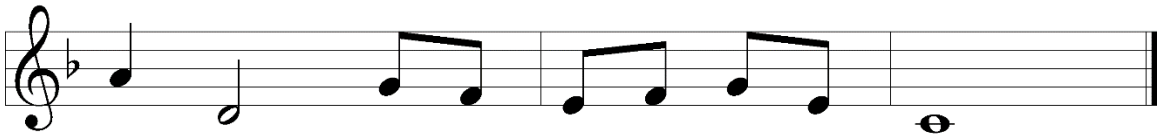
Psalm 85:8-13



Refrain




I will lis - ten to what the LORD God is



say - ing, I will lis - ten to the LORD.


⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

⁹ **Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell | in our land.** 

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹ **Truth shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall | go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.** 

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

☐ A reading from **Ephesians**:

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

TFF page 50



☑ 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

Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴ King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

☐ 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.



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain



when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Please be seated.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **In your mercy.** The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer.***

A One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence

A You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. We lift before you *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Vermontville Bible Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* In your mercy.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. 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)*. In your mercy.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for *Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Dennis Baarson, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Magdalena Garcia, The Family of Mitch Gillons, Opal Gillons, Lisa Golnek, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), the family of Reighley Hudson, Ed Markwart, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, Deb Talsma, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson*. In your mercy.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities, especially hand 2 hand, helping hands and our food pantry. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations such as Family Promise, Barry County Cares and Alpha Women's Shelter. In your mercy.

C **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy.

C **Receive our prayer.**

P Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

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.)

Offering Song

Let the Vineyards

WOV page 35



☑ 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 dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



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

Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine.

☑ **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

☐ Lift up your hearts.

☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

☐ It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

WOV page 36

☑ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection.

We look with hope for Jesus' coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, our God, 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!**

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.

I Received the Living God

ELW 477

Refrain

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

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.
- Ⓑ **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

- Ⓐ 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.**

Sending Song

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.




The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Sending

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

Postlude

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 Jesus who walks among us and gives us a healing touch.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 47	Views: 316
Weekly Giving: 3,670.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Online Giving for June: \$3,253.62	B.O.G. Brat Sale: \$484.00
Grace Projects Goal \$25,252.00	
Received To Date <u>-\$ 2,915.00</u>	
Total Needed \$22,337.00	
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$255.00	

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.

The 2024 Grace Annual Meeting is TODAY at 9:30 am.

Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show Please join us on **Sunday, July 28** for the 9th Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show beginning at 9:00. There will be a combined worship service beginning at 10:00. Registration for participants begins at 9:00 with dash plaques being given to the first 40 entrants. Food and beverages are being provided by Thrivent begins shortly after worship concludes until the food runs out.

Desserts Needed for the car show on **Sunday, July 28**. Please sign up on the bulletin board as so as possible if you plan on sharing a dessert so an accurate count can be made. 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.

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

Cereal Band Concert on August 18 from 3-5 pm at Gull Lake Manor House. Music includes marches, Broadway favorites, classical, folk, jazz and other popular tunes. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Devotionals for July, August and September are available in the Gathering Area.

Thank You from Brenda Hess and Family On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone for their love and support while I took time off following the death of my dad, Barry "Hotdog" Swanson. Your kind words, texts, cards, visits, flowers and other expressions of sympathy were very comforting during a time of great loss. Thank you so very much.

Risk-taking Witness

What makes a good leader? Confidence, compassion, or courage? Popularity and prestige? A quick Google search offers no shortage of books, articles, and classes on leadership. And it's no wonder: organizations, communities, and entire governments depend on the abilities of those who step into decision-making roles. A good leader can inspire the masses and impact the world in profoundly positive ways, while a corrupt leader can cause entire systems to crumble, resulting in devastation for individuals and communities alike.

It turns out these concepts are not new. Scripture has much to say about the qualities of leaders and the consequences of their decisions. The Bible offers several stories of faithful leaders: those who think about what is best for the whole community, particularly the people who are most vulnerable. These kinds of leaders follow God's call at great personal risk. John the Baptist is just one example.

Meanwhile, corrupt leaders are most concerned with self-preservation. They are governed by fear and greed, easily threatened by those on the margins. Herod finds himself in this position. While he may have been intrigued by John, saving his own reputation mattered more to him than John's life. The result is nothing short of horrific, culminating with an innocent man's head on a platter.

Our world is full of leaders who wield their power for their own benefit. But the good news is, God continues to call faithful leaders who pave the way with risk-taking, truth-telling witness. This type of leadership is not easy, and the personal risk is great. John's story illustrates this in alarming ways. And yet, John's story is not defined by his death—in Christ, his prophetic words and deeds echo through the ages. His impact lives on, calling us to the humble, compassionate way of Jesus.

So, what kind of leader will you be? And whom will you choose to follow?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Amy Poholski

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Linda Melcher

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart

Barry County Cares needs household cleaning supplies and personal care products (especially laundry detergent and dish soap). If you would like to donate, there is a box located at the entrance.

Items are due Monday, July 29th. Thank you for your support.

TURKEYVILLE Millon Dollar Quartet on October 12 at 12 p.m. The trip to Turkeyville includes a full turkey meal and the play. Tickets are \$65.00 and payable to Bill Freedlund. Please place cash or checks in an envelope provided in the Gathering Area, and give to Brenda Hess, Parish Administrator. **DEADLINE FOR SIGNUP & PAYMENT IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 11.** There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.