

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 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

- P** O Lord, open our lips,
G 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,
G who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

Gathering Song

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

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.
G And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray... O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.
G Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

📖 A reading from **Deuteronomy**:

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15



Refrain




LORD, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?

¹Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. 

Second Reading

James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

📖 A reading from **James**:

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

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

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

- ☐ 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.

Song of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

Please be seated.

Prayers

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

- ☐ Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

- ☐ God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. We especially lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion Saron Lutheran Church, St. Joseph; Hastings Church of the Nazarene, Community Baptist Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* In your mercy.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- ☐ God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. In your mercy.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. 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), Seth Domke (Domke), and Nathen Schick (Markwart)*. In your mercy.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Dennis Baarson, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Veronica Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Eric Crux, Pat DePew, Bonnie Ehredt, Magdalena Garcia, Ruby Gibbons (proud parents, Shayna and James Gibbons), Opal Gillons, Lisa Golnek, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Ruth Hill, Joy Jenks, John Kleinbrink, Ed Markwart, Martha Mizak, Dawn McElgunn, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Shirley Peterson, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Nick Seifert, Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, John Surratt, Deb Talsma, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Gary Wagner and Brenda Watson*. In your mercy.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. In your mercy.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed (*especially*). We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. In your mercy.

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓟ We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☞ **Amen.**

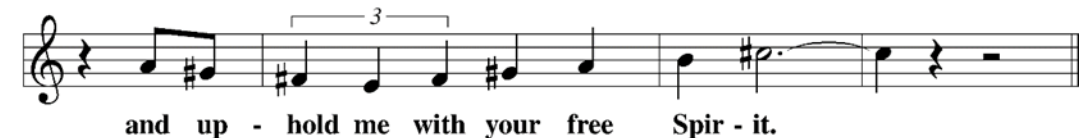
Please arise in body or spirit.

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 Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
- C** **Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. 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, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

TFF page 56



☑ **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. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 Christ's love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. 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

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God

TFF page 39



C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.



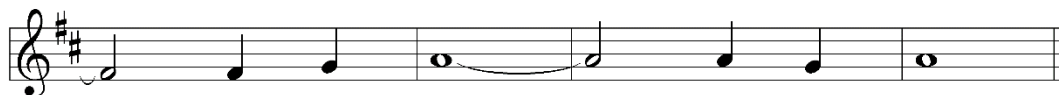
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs: *Break Now the Bread of Life*
We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW 515
ELW 518

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.

C In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

☩ The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and
✠ grant you peace.

☩ Amen.

Sending Song

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

ELW 536

Sending

☩ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Mark Anton

Musician – Cindy Olson

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Musician – Cindy Olson

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

What Would Jesus Do?

At the outset, rules seem simple. They divide the world into good and bad and help us restore a measure of order to a chaotic world. Unfortunately, the same rules that we use to bring order out of chaos are often insufficient to deal with the complexity of our lives, which is one of the reasons there truly is an exception to every rule. This is also the reason we appoint judges: to interpret the law when it fails to adequately address the circumstance to which it is applied.

In Jesus' day the Pharisees and scribes were known for their strict observance of the law. So when they notice the disciples of Jesus eating with defiled hands, the Pharisees and scribes bring this perceived breach of the law to Jesus' attention. The law itself, which requires that people wash their hands before eating, originated from ancient purity laws. Jesus understands this and simultaneously upholds and reframes the law by drawing his listeners' attention away from the washing of hands to what truly defiles. In doing so, Jesus acts as a judge and offers an interpretation of the law that both upholds its original intent of purity and absolves the disciples of wrongdoing. At the same time, he exposes the prioritization of human precepts over God's command and reminds us of God's sovereignty and compassion.

Rules are simple, but our world is not. Through the incarnation, the Word made flesh, God meets us at the intersection of law and life. In Jesus, God the judge enters our world in a new way and interprets the law. And through Jesus, we come to understand God's will in a messy world. Therefore, if we as Christians truly want to live out the will of God, we do well to start with that old and simple question "What would Jesus do?"

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Grace is looking to have people share in ministry

Grace is currently looking for servants of God to share the ministry of Jesus Christ by finding a Stewardship Chair, an Outreach Chair and a "fulltime" Treasurer. We thank Chris Bush for her time as Stewardship Chair, Mike Kemper for his time as Outreach Chair and Linda Maupin as "fulltime" Treasurer. We are thankful that Randy Teegardin has stepped into the role of Treasurer, but he is away from Hastings for a good chunk of time. If you are interested in sharing ministry in any capacity, please let Tim Schoessel know.

Parish Administrator The Executive Committee voted to offer Anna Scheck an interim position as Grace Lutheran Church Parish Administrator. We are grateful that Anna is willing to step into this position. Hours will be 9:00 am until 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday. She has enjoyed her first week. Welcome Anna!

Social Activities Committee will meet this Tuesday at 4:30 pm. All are welcome to attend, and we'll see you there, SAC members!

Worship Committee meets next Sunday, September 8th after the second worship service.

Women of Faith will resume on Tuesday, September 10 at 11:00 am, where we will have a review and continue our studies of Ephesians. Meetings will continue on Tuesdays September 17, and 24.

Executive Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30 pm.

Congregational Care Committee will meet on Monday, September 16 at 3:00 pm. Please contact Sharon Varkula for more information and to sign up to be a Shepherd.

Fifth Sunday Combined Worship is being held on September 29, 2024, at 10 am. We hope that you can join us for this time of joining our community together to worship.

Game and Snack Night Social Activities is hosting a game and snack night on Saturday, September 21st from 6:00 pm till 8:30 pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board. This time we will forgo pizza and instead you are welcome to bring a snack to share with the group. Hope to see you there!

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers gather 9 am at the church on September 14. Rain date is the 21st. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Longcor.

Brothers of Grace resumes on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. We meet at the church. All men are welcome.

Barry County Cropwalk is October 13, 2024.

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 accepts our faults and failures.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 33 Views: 222
 Weekly Giving: \$2,376.00 Budget Amount: \$4,173.03

Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00
 Received To Date -\$ 3,026.32
Total Needed \$ 22,225.68

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$50.00



Hand2Hand Partner
 Fasting and praying for local kids over the weekend

October Needs

- * Bumble Bee Snack on the Go
- * Knorr Pasta Sides
- * Individual Snacks
- * Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk
- * Slim Jim's
- * Snack Pack Pudding Cups

Hand2Hand Thanks for the support given already to kick off the school year with Hand2Hand. Needs for this month include Bumble Bee Snack on the Go, Knorr Pasta sides, individual snacks, Yoo-Hoo chocolate milk, Slim Jims, and Snack Pack Pudding cups. Donations are due September 29th. If you have questions, please see Patti Comp. Thank you for supporting hungry students over the weekends.

Relay for Life is on Saturday, September 14-15, 2024, noon to noon. Bags are a \$10 donation. Make checks out to: **American Cancer Society** memo Barry RFL Place donations in RFL envelope and place in the offering plate or office. Thanks!

Calendars are available in the Gathering Area for \$5.00 each.

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 a study based on the book of Song of Songs, also known as the Song of Solomon.