# **Grace Lutheran Church**

239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

> Phone: (269) 945-9414 (269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music April 6, 2025

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

## **April 6, 2025**

**Lent** is a season of preparation and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of the extravagance of God. The music of the season reflects our need to prepare for God's forgiveness and renewal, which draws us into God's forgiving action toward humanity and all of creation.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** We are promised that the earth will not be destroyed by God's commitment to renew all of creation. God pulls us into life by saving us and removing our sin through Jesus Christ. We are called to allow God's reign of life to sustain us in our times of trial and to stand with God who gives us life, so that others can experience God's grace in their life.

Holy	Silence	is	observed	as	we	enter	to	worship.
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Welcome

## **Gathering Music**

Arise in body or spirit.

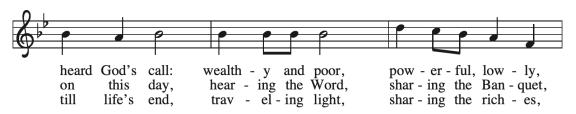
## Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P 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.



- - 1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin ners and saints have
  - 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as sem ble
  - 3 Mak-ing our way sea son by sea-son, pil-grims, we jour-ney





Je - sus'dis - ci-ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of - fer-ing thanks, learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love, car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast. they seek our God to know, and SO to - geth - er grow. to - geth - er will we come to our e - ter - nal home.

## **Dialogue**

- Amen.
- **A** Behold, now is the acceptable time;
- **o** now is the day of salvation.
- P Let us celebrate that Christ bears our burdens.
- **Saving us from sin through the Holy Spirit.**

**Kyrie** W&P 81



let us

pray

let us

pray

#### Prayer of the Day

- ⚠ Let us pray... Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert.
- Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

## L A reading from **Isaiah.**

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters. <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me. the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L Word of God. Word of life.

**☑** Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 126



#### Refrain



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the for- <sup>1</sup> tunes of Zion, then were we like <sup>1</sup> those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carry-<sup>1</sup>ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder-<sup>1</sup>ing their sheaves. ■

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

## **L** A reading from **Philippians**.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

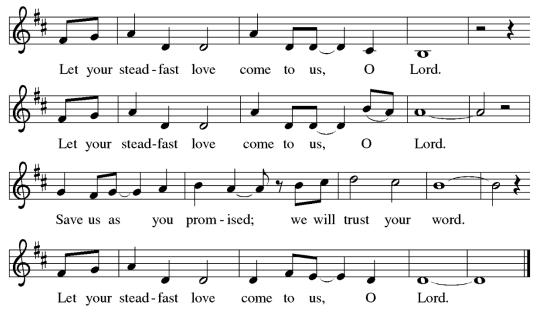
<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God. Word of life.

**⚠** Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

ELW page 189



Gospel Reading John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

P The Holy Gospel, according to John.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

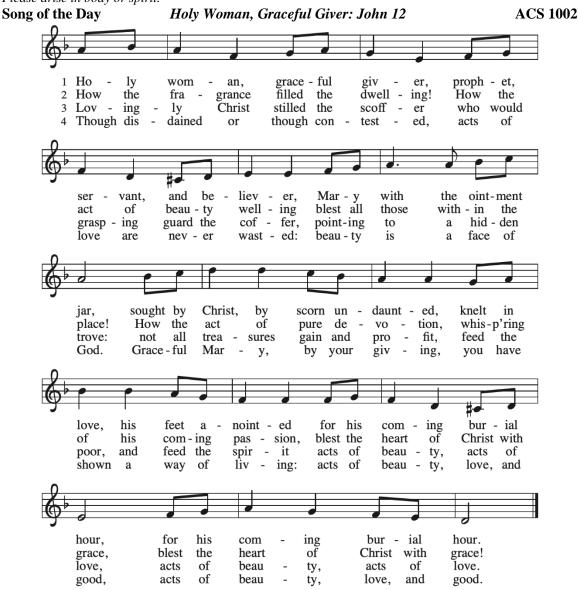
Please be seated.

#### 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

Please arise in body or spirit.



Please be seated.

#### **Prayers**

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

⚠ Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

#### A brief silence.

A The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. Bless our leaders and partners, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and Kjersten, our synod companion Grace Lutheran Church, East Tawas; St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Shelbyville; St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. God, in your mercy,

## **☑** Receive our prayer.

A The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

## **☑** Receive our prayer.

A The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund)*, *Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements)*, *Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen)*, *Joel Taggart (Varkula)*, *Seth Domke (Domke)*, and *Nathen Schick (Markwart)*. God, in your mercy,

## **☑** Receive our prayer.

A The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need, especially Jennie Anderson, Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Lisa Golnek, Heather Gore, Larry Griswold, Cheryl Hills, Joy Jenks, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Dana Lepien, Linda Melcher, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Lisa Nurenberg, Kali Ranguette (pregnancy), Tammy Rodriguez, Lynnze Rudesill-Nuyen, Sandy Scheck, Ron Smith, Kathy Surratt, Lorelei Tate, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,

## **☑** Receive our prayer.

⚠ The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

## **©** Receive our prayer.

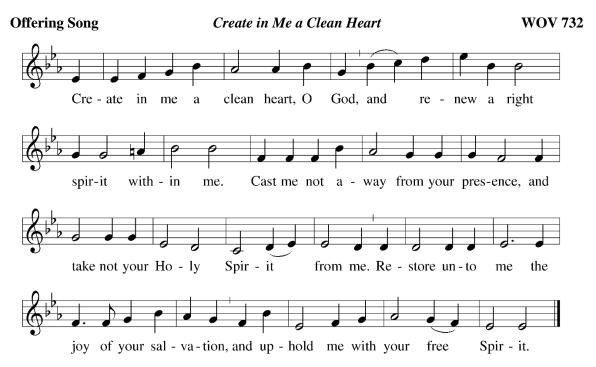
Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,
- Receive our prayer.
- P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
- @ Amen.

Please arise in body or spirit.

#### **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....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,
- that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

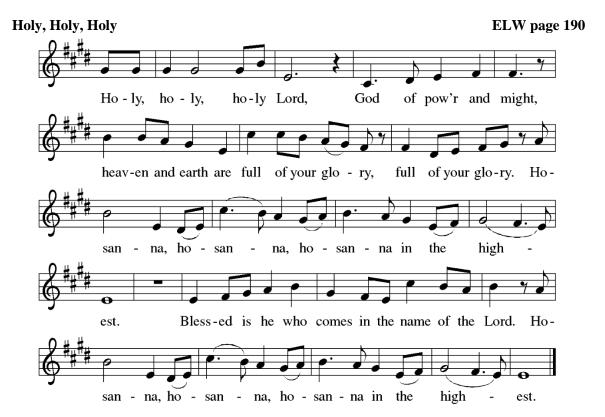
Fifth Sunday in Lent Page 11

#### **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.

#### The Proper Preface

P 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the waters of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### The Prayer of Consecration

- P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as Jesus comes to us in his holy supper.
- **■** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- 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 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.

#### Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:
- 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 All who are hungry, Come! The feast of grace is spread.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.





- 1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o-pen,
- 2 In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac-cept-ance,



in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble, in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing, in the cir-cle of your peo-ple,







## **Prayer after Communion**

- ⚠ Let us pray . . . Generous God, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
- Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mission Minutes**

Arise in body or spirit.

#### **Blessing**

- P 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



#### Sending

- A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

#### **Postlude**

9:30 am
Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Musician – Cindy Olson
Cantor – Anna Scheck
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Diane Neeb

## Instead, You Could Have ...

Not another book of the Bible talks about love the way John talks about love. Even if a person doesn't know another thing about this gospel, never went to vacation Bible school, sang a hymn, sat in a pew, or stared at a stained-glass window, chances are good they will perk up at familiar echoes of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world."

Love is leaking out of this gospel book like water from a hose with no gasket, and who knows where it all goes? "I love you, you should love me," Jesus says. And love one another too—colleagues and culprits, defamers and defenders, the near and the far, bullies, bandits, and bores. "Love." It is Jesus' nonnegotiable command. So you'd expect that the hangers-on, the stickarounds, the learners and leaders and even the laggers-behind whose names and faces and brief bios show up in John's chapters would be specialists in the art of loving.

Some of those gospel characters were together one night in Bethany, a little village just over the hills from Jerusalem. A dinner (it was holiday time) was being hosted in the home of Jesus' friends Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. But the festive gathering was menaced. They were on edge in the intimacy of the room. Uneasiness stirred in the streets, rebels' causes brewed in shadows and braved daylight. Rumors and plots swirled as they do in troubled times—times that ignore commands, are deaf to pleas, and mislay impulses to love.

When love does not know what to do or how to act; when it struggles with itself and feels imperfect or too thin, unfinished and inadequate; when the campaigns and monuments and funds and meals and letters seem not enough . . . look at Mary. She leads the way by kneeling at the feet of love itself. There we find the path toward love.

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## **Holy Week Schedule:**

Palm Sunday
April 13
9:30 am
Sunday Service

Maundy Thursday
April 17
7:00 pm
Evening Service

Cross Walk
April 18
9:30 am
Reflective Group Walk

Good Friday
April 18
7:00 pm
Evening Service

# Easter Sunday Worship is April 20 at 9:30 am

Know that you are welcome to join us for this celebratory service of God's abundant love and salvation that is shared with us all through the miracle of the resurrection.

Parish Administrator is Anna Scheck; office hours 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

**Midweek Lenten Community Gatherings** meet one more time this Wednesday, April 9 at Noon. You are invited to **lunch here at Grace** with a presentation by Pastor Kendall Farnum on the theme "One Lord." Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and a community conversation, focused on the theme "The Things that Unite Us: Promoting Christian Unity."

**Midweek Lenten Services and Dinners** continue for a final week this Wednesday. At 6:00 pm, we will gather for a meal in the fellowship hall. Then, at 7:00 pm, we will have a service of evening prayer in the sanctuary. This week's meal is Frito Pie, a variation on walking tacos. Offering given during Lenten dinners will support United Campus Christian Fellowship, a campus ministry serving the Grand Rapids colleges of GVSU, GRCC, and Kendall College of Art and Design. They are led by ELCA Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg.

**Study Statement: Sharing God's Grace with All People, Especially the Outcast** Please join us next week on Palm Sunday, April 13 during fellowship time after worship for our one-hour discussion about our strategic welcoming of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Social Activities Committee meets this Monday, April 7 at 4:30 p.m.

Executive Committee meets this Tuesday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Brothers at Grace meets this Thursday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Outreach Committee meets next Monday, April 14 at 3:00 p.m.

Congregation Council meets next Tuesday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m.

"At the Movies: Mystery at the Blood Drive" Themed Blood Drive is on Wednesday, April 23 from 10am-4pm. Registration is open, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html. Please consider giving blood and spread the word to those who may be interested! Sign up to work or provide snacks on the bulletin board.

Fifth Sunday in Lent Page 19

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 received a burial anointing. Let us realize that we are also anointed by God's rich love for each of us in our daily lives.

#### Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

## Stewardship Information

Attendance: 55 Views: 228

Weekly Giving: \$3,545.40 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

In Memory of Doris Allerding – General Fund: \$100.00

United Campus Christian Fellowship: \$100



 Grace Projects Goal
 \$ 25,252.00

 Received To Date
 -\$ 4,410.00

 Total Needed
 \$ 20,842.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$60

**Hand2Hand** Thank you for generously supporting Hand2Hand this month - we are helping 101 students who may be hungry over the weekends. April's needed food items are Ramen Noodles, Slim Jim's, Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, applesauce cups, individual pudding cups, and individual microwave popcorn. The donation deadline is April 27. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Lenten Devotionals "Hope-Full Living" are available in the Gathering Area.

**Women of Faith** meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 am here at Grace. Join us in studying "Listening to God" on April 8, 15, 22, and 29. All women are welcome.

**The nursery is available weekly during the 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 after worship today with Pastor Ken, with a study on Hosea.

**Devotional Materials** for April-June are available in the Gathering Area.

Women of Faith and Brothers of Grace Luncheon is on Saturday, April 26 at 12:00 p.m. All members of WOF and BOG and their spouses are invited. Join in on this fun time of fellowship.

**MI Fiddler's Association Jamboree** will be this Saturday, April 12 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. This is not a church event, but the community has been invited to come enjoy the music by Mary Hansen, the organizer of the event. Fiddlers will be playing from 1-4, and open jam is 4-5. Musicians and dancers are welcome.