

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
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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we hear Jesus' voice say to us, "Love one another. Let us boldly share God's love with those who need it most.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

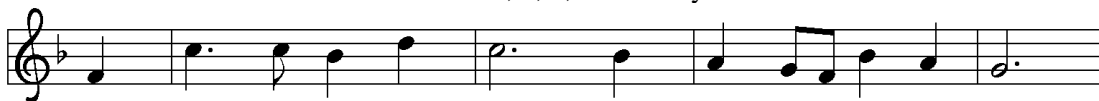
Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- A** Risen Christ, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
- C** Empower us to bear witness to your new life.
- P** Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus.
- C** Let us show your goodness and mercy.
- A** Come among us again.
- C** Breathe your life into us.
- P** This is the day that the Lord has made;
- C** we will rejoice and be glad in it!

verses 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7 only



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain

We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
 with faith's bright songful voice!
 Announce the gospel to the world
 and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Easter Greeting

- ☐ The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope, be with you all.
 ☑ **And also with you.**

Song of Praise*Morning Has Broken*

ELW 556

Prayer of the Day

- ▲ Let us pray . . . O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing.
 ☑ **Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, 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

Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

📖 A reading from **Acts**.

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148



Refrain




The splen-dor of the LORD is o - ver earth and heav'n.

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.


² Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

**³ Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.**

**⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens. **


⁵ Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they ¹ were created,
⁶ who made them stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not ¹ pass away.

**7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;**


**8 fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will; **

9 mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;
10 wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;

**¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;**

¹² young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. 

¹³ Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ¹ earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! 

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

📖 A reading from **Revelation**.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to 're - ceive the food
of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
that the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our
acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful-
fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
glo - ry.

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final chord.

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

☐ The Resurrection Gospel according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

☑ **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.

Song of the Day

I Come With Joy

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.***

☐ God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

A Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Guide and direct those in leadership positions, *including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and Kjersten, our synod companion Peace Lutheran Church, Gaylord; the 2025 Synod Assembly; Central United Methodist, Lake Odessa; Church of Christ, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to the preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. 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), Hudson Schick (Markwart), and Leopold Schick (Markwart).* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness, *especially Jennie Anderson, Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Steve Croel, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Lisa Golnek, Heather Gore, Larry Griswold, Joy Jenks, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Dana Lepien, Alexis Markwart, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Linda Melcher, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Kali Ranguette (pregnancy), Tammy Rodriguez, Dr. Michael Menolasino, Lynnze Rudesill-Nuyen, Sandy Scheck, Kathy Surratt, Ed Szumowski, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Jan Tossava and the family of Ron Smith, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson.* Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace.

C **Along with the gifts we bring, come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with your risen body in the world. 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 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

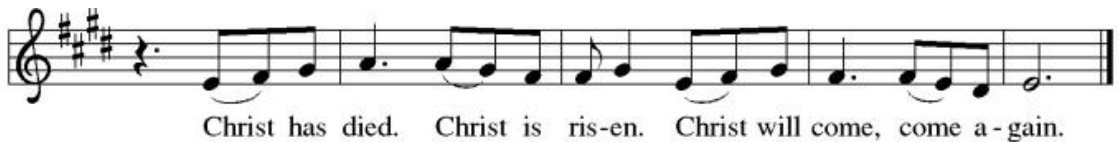
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**
- ☐ 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.**
- ☐ 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.**
- ☐ 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.

Congregation:

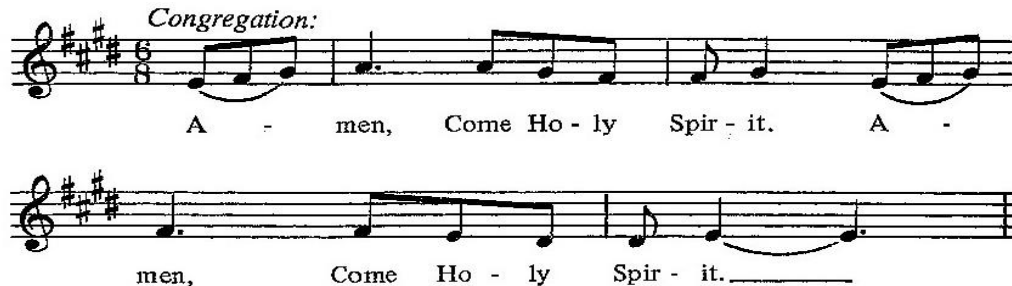


- ☐ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- ☑ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**
- ☐ 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; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

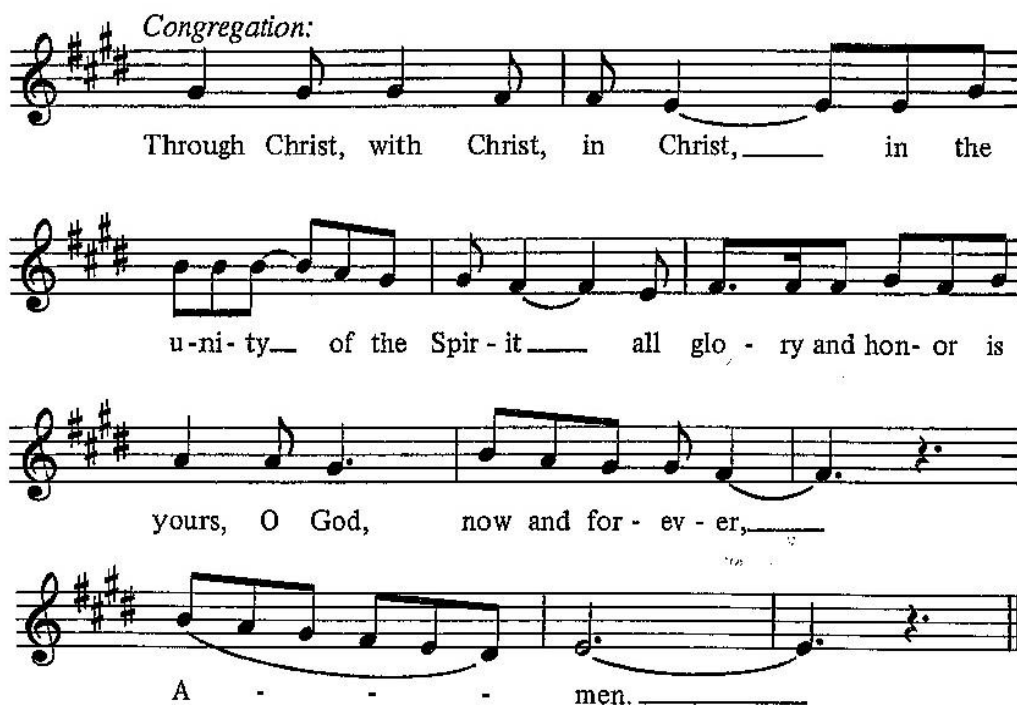
Congregation:



- ☐ 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. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.



- ☐ All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.



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

☐ Holy things for holy people.

☑ One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.

☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☑ Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

Lamb of God

ELW 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Prayer after Communion

- ▲ Let us pray . . . Living God, in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
- ☑ Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☑ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- ☐ God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- ☑ Amen.

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Dismissal

☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☐ Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Mark Anton

Musician – Cindy Olson

Cantor – Mary Kuhlman

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Bill Freedlund

The Deceptive Simplicity of Love

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each others" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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 calls us to love one another. Let us celebrate that we can share God's love with others.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 48 Views: 258
 Weekly Giving: \$1,840.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
 Noisy Offering: \$29.42

Cost of Brats and Mulch Landscaping Materials	\$789.31
Brat Sale Received To Date	\$604.00
Gift Towards Landscaping Project	\$200.00
Landscaping is Paid Off, Extra to General Fund	+\$14.69

Grace Projects Goal	\$ 25,252.00	Spring Flower Sale Income: \$1,009.00
Received To Date	-\$ 4,550.00	Spring Flower Expenses: \$420.95
Total Needed	\$ 20,702.00	Spring Flower Sale Profit: \$588.05

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$50.00

Hand2Hand Thank you for generously supporting Hand2Hand this month, and throughout this whole school year! We are helping 101 students who may be hungry over the weekends. May's needed items are Slim Jim's, individual pudding cups, granola bars, Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, applesauce cups, and Ramen Noodles. The donation deadline is May 25. Thank you for your support of this ministry – this is the last month for donations until school resumes!



Women of Faith meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 am here at Grace. Join us in studying "Listening to God" on May 20 and 27. All women are welcome.

Commitment Sunday is today. We will be filling out pledge forms for the 2025-26 fiscal year. This information will help Grace leadership balance anticipated income with the budget. In early June, the Committee will have a draft budget available for review.

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.

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

Adult Forum Please join us after worship today with Pastor Ken, with a study on Hebrews.

Congregation Council will meet this Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 pm.

Synod Assembly begins this evening and continues through Tuesday afternoon. We will be represented by Bill and Lorraine Freedlund, and Ken and Anna Scheck. The office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, as Anna and Ken will be going to the assembly. Please call Pastor Ken's cell phone if there is an emergency.