

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



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

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
August 31, 2025

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

**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** You are the treasured people of the Lord,  
**C** a people holy to the Lord our God.
- A** Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children  
**C** Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.
- P** One does not live by bread alone,  
**C** but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

## Gathering Song

*Gather Us In*

ELW 532

## Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

- P** The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray... O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble.  
**C** Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

## Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

📖 A reading from **Proverbs**.

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 112




## Refrain



The righ-teous are mer-ci-ful and full of com - pas-sion.


<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD  
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;  
the generation of the upright | will be blessed. 

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.

<sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.


<sup>5</sup> **It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending  
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.**

<sup>6</sup> **For they will nev- | er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance. **

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and | will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.

<sup>9</sup> **They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor.**

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;  
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. **

## Second Reading

**Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

📖 A reading from **Hebrews**.

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙌 **Thanks be to God.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

## Gospel Acclamation



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

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to **Luke**.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **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

## Come Now, You Blessed

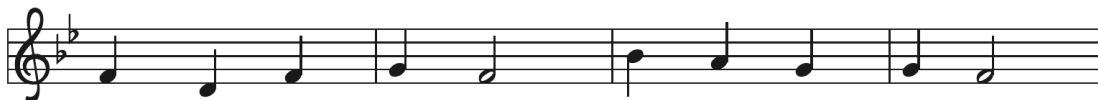
ACS 1059



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"  
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?  
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,  
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.  
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?  
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,  
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,  
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?  
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,  
then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."  
What have we done that you call us your own?  
you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

*Please sit or kneel.*

## Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **Your mercy is great.***

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.  
*A brief silence.*

**A** For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Bishop-elect Julie Schneider-Thomas, Assistants Chrisy and Kjersten, our synod companion Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Hudsonville; Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Hastings; Faith Bible Church, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God,

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. 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).* On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God,

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence *especially Jennie Anderson, the family of Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Amy Hansen, Joy Jenks, Steve Kaiser, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Bev McManaway, Ed McManaway, Linda Melcher, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Valeria Poholski, Tammy Rodriguez, Lynnze Rudesill, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Linda Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy.* Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. We thank you for all who share in ministry by supporting Snacks for Kids, Relay for Life, Hand2Hand, the Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intersessions may be offered.*



**A** For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**P** Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**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**

### ***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord***

**ELW 481**

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. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### **Offering Prayer**

**A** 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.

**C** **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.

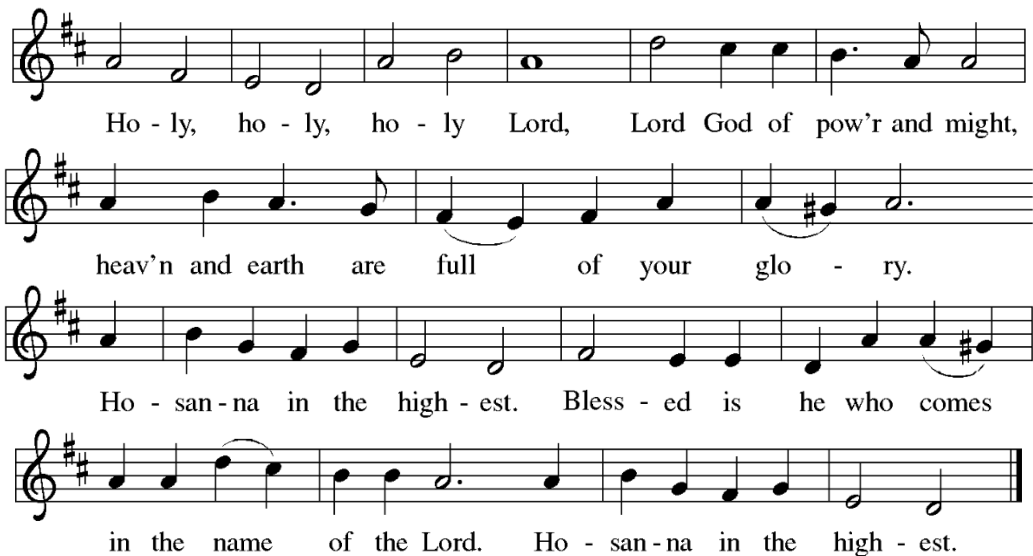
☐ Lift up your hearts.

☑ 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 our duty and delight 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

## Table Prayer

☐ Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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!**

*Please be seated.*

### Jesus, Lamb of 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.

# Communion Songs:

## Broken for Me

W&P 23

*Refrain*



- 1 He of - fered his bod - y, he poured out his soul;
- 2 Come to my ta - ble and with me dine;
- 3 This is my bod - y giv - en for you;
- 4 This is my blood . . . I shed for you;

*Refrain*



Je - sus was bro - ken that we might be whole.  
eat of my bread . . . and drink of my wine.  
eat it, re - mem - b'ring I died for you.  
for your for - give - ness, mak - ing you new.

*Final refrain*



## In the Singing

ELW 466

### 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

*O Christ the Same*

ELW 760

### Sending

☞ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☞ Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo

Lector – Dave Neeb

Musician – Cindy Olson

Cantor – Mary Kuhlman

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Jamie Heise

## Did You Get the Invitation?

Choosing the invitation design for an important event can be nerve-wracking. But deciding whom to invite? Whittling down the list of desired attendees can be even more difficult than choosing the invitation itself. So much stress.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a dinner party as a teaching opportunity. In the ancient world, being invited to such an occasion was an honor, but figuring out where to sit once you arrived required a whole other stress-inducing decision. How embarrassing it would be to choose a place of prominence, only to discover you're not that important and have to move down the table. How disappointing it would be to invite someone to your party but not receive an invitation to their next gathering. (Is that why you invited them, anyway?) So many of these social games we continue to play.

You might say that Jesus takes the stress out of party-planning because he encourages us to take an honest and humble view of it all: the view from God's vantage point. In the realm of God, the last in the eyes of the world are first, and the first, last.

In the kingdom of God, roles are reversed, orders are disrupted, and convention is thrown out the window so all may know the grace, peace, and love of God. The divine Host throws amazing parties and desires everyone, especially those overlooked by the party-throwers and powerbrokers of the world, to have a chance to enjoy them.

Today's gospel reading reminds us that at God's table, everyone is invited and no one goes away empty. The party is freely offered and not a setting for social games. The table has no head and no foot but, rather, is a cloud of witnesses gathered around the life of the Crucified and Risen One. The eucharist is the prime example of this feast. Did you get the invitation? Because you're invited!

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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**Snacks for Kids** Today is the last day we are collecting individually packaged snacks for the classrooms of local teachers. The teachers have shared that snacks are most needed, as many students cannot afford to bring their own snacks.

School is back in session! Please consider donating to the **hand2hand program** which helps local needy students! **September needs** are: Individual Snacks, Slim Jim's, Snack Pack Pudding, Granola Bars, Individual Applesauce, Ramen Noodles, Mac & Cheese, Raisins, and Individual Instant Oatmeal packets. Items are due by September 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for any donation – Outreach Committee.

**The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas** will be installed as **bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod** on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 4:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (2700 Fulton Street E). All are welcome to attend! Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.

**Serenity Village** Grand Opening is Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30 pm.

**Relay for Life** is **September 13<sup>th</sup> noon until noon September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Luminaries are a \$10 donation. Looking for walkers – sign-up on bulletin board. Survivor lap is at 6pm. Dinner for survivors is at 6:30. We are also collecting canned goods for the luminaries. “Walking” is not required for participation – any one is welcome to be present and supportive.

**Called to the Church Triumphant** Our brother in Christ, Reverend Doctor Michael Anton. Visitation will take place here at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday, September 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Service will be at Hastings Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 20 at 11:00 am. There will be a time of viewing at the Hastings Performing Arts Center beginning at 10:00 am.

**Rev. Yehiel Curry** was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as **presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA. **We pray for Bishop Curry.**

Please join the ***Hastings Women's Club*** at Culver's on Tuesday, **September 16th, 5pm-8pm** for our next fundraiser supporting our "Jumpstart Your Future" Scholarship Fund. Dine-in or Drive-thru, we will receive a portion of the proceeds on all sales during those 3 hours only. Don't eat at Culver's? We also accept donations - cash or check! Thank you for your continued support. Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216 with your questions.

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. We welcome and affirm all people, which includes the LGBTQIA+ community. 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 God. Jesus calls us to honor each other. Treating each individual with respect and kindness. Let us share God's grace with one another.

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.



**Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 38 Views: 216  
Weekly Giving: \$2,640 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

**Grace Projects Goal**    \$ 25,252.00  
Received To Date        - \$ 4,750.00  
**Total Needed**            \$ 20,502.00  
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$50

**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 Cindy Olson; **office hours 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Wednesday.** Cindy's hours will change slightly starting next week.

**Women of Faith** will not meet this week. Join us next Tuesday, here at Grace, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

The next **Social Activities meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 pm.**

**Crop Walk** Look for information next Sunday for the Crop Walk. There will be an information table, materials to get sponsors and envelopes to give money toward this ministry.

**Save the Date:** A **Fall Hot Dog Roast** will be held **Sunday, September 28** after worship. The Social Activities Committee will host a campfire here at Grace after church. Mark your calendars, and be on the look out for more information to come soon.