

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
September 21, 2025

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 21, 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,

**G** a people holy to the Lord our God.

**A** Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children

**G** 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,

**G** but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

### Gathering Song

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW583

### 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.

**G** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us pray... God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another.

**G** Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## **First Reading**

**Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

**L** A reading from **Amos**.

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

<sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,

<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 113




### Refrain



<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;  
praise the name | of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its | going down  
let the name of the | LORD be praised.


<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;  
God's glory a- | bove the heavens. **

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the | LORD our God,  
who sits en- | throned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops | to behold  
the heavens | and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust  
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them | with the rulers,  
with the rulers | of the people.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah! 

## Second Reading

## 1 Timothy 2:1-7

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

📖 A reading from **1 Timothy**.

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

<sup>5</sup>For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

📖 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 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**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**

***Let Streams of Living Justice***

**ELW 710**

*Please sit or kneel.*

## **Prayers**

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **God of Grace**, The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer**.*

Ⓐ Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Ⓐ O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Yahiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate, our synod companion Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo; Freeport United Brethren Church; Freeport United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of Grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. 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)*. God of Grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones *especially Jennie Anderson, the family of Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Lori and John Giacalone, Opal Gillons, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Ruth Hill, Joy Jenks, 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, Diane Neeb, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Lynnze Rudesill, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Linda Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy*. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of Grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints, especially Michael Anton, who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of Grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of Grace,

**C** Receive our prayer.

**P** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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

### We Are an Offering

ELW 692

The musical score is written on six staves of music. The melody is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of three notes) on the third, fifth, and sixth staves. The lyrics are: We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

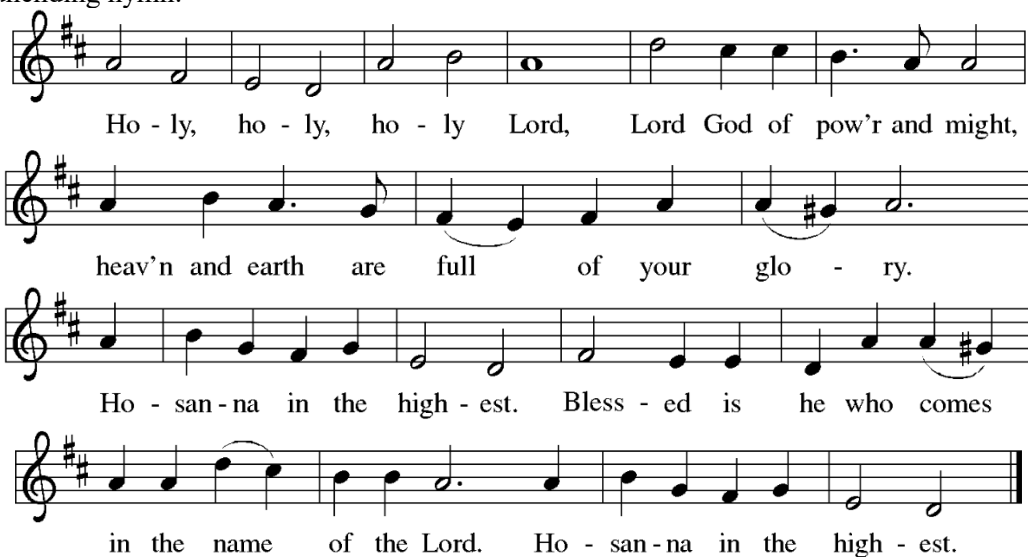


## Offering Prayer

- 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

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** 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

- P** 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:*****In this Feast of Love*****ACS 962**

1 In this feast of love, in this  
2 In this bread and wine, in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

feast of love, Lord, you share your  
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord; fill us with the


blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

***Be Thou My Vision*****ELW 793****Prayer after Communion**

- A** 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.
- C** 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**

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

**Sending Song*****Founded on Faith*****ACS 1048**

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Sending**

☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☒ Thanks be to God.

**Postlude****9:30 am****Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck****Lector – Dave Neeb****Musician – Cindy Olson****Cantor – Paul Kuhlman****Pastor – Ken Scheck****Fellowship – Bill and Lorraine Freedlund**

## True Riches

Being stuck in unjust systems is exhausting. Perhaps they are designed to frustrate and impede any efforts to undo their power. The manager in Jesus' parable does what he can to make the most of his precarious position, but his resolution still leaves a lot to be desired. Does the rich man remain in his wealthy and powerful position? What about all the others who still owe the estate? Why does the manager, and not the rich landowner who holds all the cards, become the object lesson?

It seems Jesus is getting serious here about our relationships with money, riches, and power: "You cannot serve God and wealth" (Luke 16:13). That much is clear. But perhaps Jesus is drawing our attention to the larger implications of God's economy and what it means to lean on one another for the sake of justice in our world. Luke's gospel began with Mary's song, after all, extolling the ways the poor will be lifted up in the kin-dom Jesus brings. In this new reign, all resources are brought into the service of those who need them most. Faithful living here and now might look different from what we're accustomed to when we consider what God has in mind, especially when we are used to unhelpful contemporary mantras like "Might makes right" and "Winner takes all."

True to Mary's song, Jesus indeed turns our world upside down, which distresses those of us who appreciate good order. But in the end, this turning does what is needed to make the world right. In our world today, we may struggle with the forgiveness of debts and the redistribution of wealth, but Jesus doesn't. God brings the true riches of justice and love for all and will not fail to do what is needed to make sure every last beloved person on earth has what they need to truly live.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**Adult Forum** will not gather to study the book of Hebrews today. Pastor Ken will be going to Zion Lutheran Church, Woodland to lead worship during class time.

**Parish Administrator** is Cindy Olson; **Office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Monday-Wednesday.**

**Women of Faith** will meet on Tuesday, here at Grace, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**A Fall Hot Dog Roast** is scheduled for **Sunday, September 28th** after service at the church. Please sign up on the bulletin board and indicate the number attending. We will roast hot dogs on an open fire and share other fall treats with a Corn Hole game available. All food and treats are provided by Social Activities. If you don't want a Hot Dog, Doughnuts and Cider will be available. Please bring children and grandchildren! Don't forget lawn chairs! Looking forward to fun fellowship!

**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.

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 tells a story about being one who serves God in a manner that is different than the world's way of cheating our neighbor. Let us share God's grace and love instead of taking advantage of others.

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
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**Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 52 Views: 220  
Weekly Giving: \$1,892.25 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

Noisy Offering (collected the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month): \$65.38

**Grace Projects Goal   \$ 25,252.00**

Received To Date   -\$ 8,227.00

**Total Needed       \$ 17,025.00**

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$155.00

The **Hand2Hand Program** is for local students who need help over the weekend. Please consider assisting us by providing the following items: 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> and can be placed in the box inside the entrance to the building. Any donation is greatly appreciated.– Outreach Committee.

**Crop Walk** Information is available beginning today for the Crop Walk. You can find information and materials to get sponsors on the table in the Gathering Area. If you desire, there are envelopes to give money toward this ministry.

**The Annual Heritage Meal** will be held on **Sunday, October 26th** after the service. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please list how many will attend and if you plan to bring a heritage entree or a dish from another category. Hope to see you then!!