

# 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

Phone: (269) 945-9414  
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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
September 28, 2025

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 28, 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*

### Gathering Song

*Gather Us In*

ELW532

### Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

☐ The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

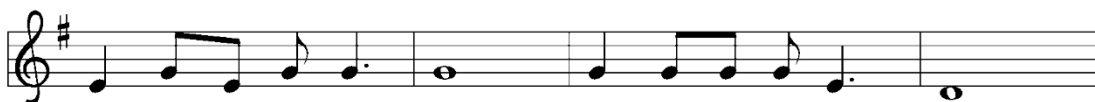
### Song of Praise

*This Little Light of Mine*

ELW 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;


  
 this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,


  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

[illegible]

## Prayer of the Day

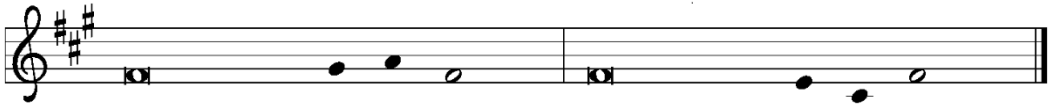
*Please be seated.*

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

**L** The word of the Lord.

## Psalm 146



### Refrain



The LORD gives jus-tice, the LORD gives jus-tice to those who are op - pressed.

<sup>1</sup> Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your | trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**  
**and in that day | their thoughts perish. [R]**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**  
**who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed**  
**down;**  
**the LORD | loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares | for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall | reign forever,**  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! [R]**

## Second Reading

## 1 Timothy 6:6-19

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

📖 A reading from **1 Timothy**.

<sup>6</sup>Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup>but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel Reading

**Luke 16:19-31**

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

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

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

📖 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.*

### **Song of the Day**

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

**ELW 729**

*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.*

☐ We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. Be with those who struggle with school this year and guide them in their time of need. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate, our synod companion Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaleva; The Gathering Place, Freeport; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

☐ We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of Grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

☐ We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity 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)*. God of Grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for people in any need, *especially Jennie Anderson, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Lori and John Giacalone, Opal Gillons, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Walker Heise, 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, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy.* Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of Grace,

**G Receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of Grace,

**G Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of Grace,

**G Receive our prayer.**

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

**G Amen.**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

### Sharing the Peace of God

**P** The peace of Christ be with you.

**G 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 three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, 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,'. The third staff includes a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above them.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-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,





### 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

- ▣ 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:

## *Give Thanks*

**W&P 41**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart,      give thanks to the Ho - ly One,

give thanks be-cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,

give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am

rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And

[illegible]

now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am

*Last time*

The first staff of music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. This is followed by a dotted quarter note G4, an eighth note F4, a quarter note E4, and a dotted quarter note D4. The staff then contains a repeat sign (double bar line with two dots) and continues with a quarter note C4, a half note Bb3, and a dotted half note A3.

rich,” be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

## *We Come to the Hungry Feast*

**ELW 479**

### **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.
- G** **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.
- G** **Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

**ELW 712**

### **Sending**

- A** Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

### **9:30 am**

**Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo**

**Lector – Mark Anton**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Cantor – Anna Scheck**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

## A Tale of Two Worlds

The only thing the rich man and Lazarus have in common is that they both have died. Death, after all, doesn't respect income. We can imagine that Lazarus succumbed to his hunger and the rich man perhaps choked on his own abundance. But despite their differing statuses on earth, it is poor Lazarus who gets a first-class ticket to the loving embrace of father Abraham.

The rich man, stripped of his money, prestige, and influence, is flung down into the filth and rot he had long avoided in life. The rich man's failure was not that he had money, owned possessions, or enjoyed a good meal; it was that he was not attentive to the suffering at his doorstep. And when he did at last see Lazarus—finally acknowledging his existence—all he could think about was himself.

Through this provocative story, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us to pay attention to the needs of the people around us. He is urging us to look and see Lazarus in our own world.

Who is Lazarus among us? Who are the hungry people at our own doorstep? Who are the ones we can name but perhaps cannot see? They might be a person with no reliable shelter or food, someone of a different race or religion, or a neighbor alone and lonely. They may even be a rich individual with all the means in the world but no real substance. What would our world look like if we truly acknowledged and embraced them?

When we recognize and serve the Lazaruses of our world, we not only extend compassion; we also encounter Jesus. His healing presence is in the midst of human suffering. Once we start looking for Lazarus, we start finding Jesus too.

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

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**Adult Forum** will not gather to study the book of Hebrews today. Enjoy the hot dog roast and see you next week as we continue our discussion.

**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 **today** after worship. Please join us if you can! 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! Looking forward to fun fellowship!

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 how we should treat each other. Let us serve one another instead of demanding to be served.

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.



**Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 43  
Weekly Giving: \$2,895.00

Views: 212  
Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

**Grace Projects Goal**    \$ 25,252.00  
**Received To Date**    -\$ 10,841.00  
**Total Needed**        \$ 14,411.00  
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$2,564.00

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 for the Crop Walk, which will take place on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. You can find materials to get sponsors on the table in the Gathering Area. If you desire, there are envelopes to give money toward this ministry. If checks are written for this ministry, make them out to CWS-CROP.

**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!!

**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.