

# 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

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
January 18, 2026

# Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

*The season of Epiphany begins January 6<sup>th</sup> (the day the Wisemen worshiped Jesus) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.*

## Welcome/Announcements

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

*Arise in body or spirit.*

### Greeting

- ☐ The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and in dwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
- ☐ The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
- ☑ **Let us share the light of God's love with others.**

## Gathering Hymn

*Arise, Your Light has Come!*

ELW 314

## Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray, Lord God, you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son.
- ☑ **As he brought gladness and healing to his people, grant us these same gifts and lead us also to perfect faith in him, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-11



Refrain



I love to do your will, O my God, O my God.

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently up- | on the LORD;  
he stooped to me and | heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | mire and clay;  
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my | footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!  
They do not resort to evil spirits or turn | to false gods. ☒**

<sup>5</sup> Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God! How great your wonders and your | plans for us!

There is none who can be com- | pared with you.

<sup>6</sup> **Oh, that I could make them | known and tell them!  
But they are more than | I can count.**

<sup>7</sup> In sacrifice and offering you | take no pleasure;  
you have given me | ears to hear you;

<sup>8</sup> **burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required,  
and so I said, "Be- | hold, I come." ☒**

<sup>9</sup> In the roll of the book it is written con- | cerning me:

‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep | in my heart.’”

<sup>10</sup> **I proclaimed righteousness in the great | congregation;  
behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O | LORD, you know.**

<sup>11</sup> Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;

I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great | congregation.

<sup>12</sup> **You are the LORD; do not withhold your com- | passion from me;  
let your love and your faithfulness keep me | safe forever. ☒**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

👏 Thanks be to God.

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?*

WOV accomp. ed. pg. 16

👏 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

**John 1:29-42**

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”<sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children’s Time

### Message

*Silence for reflection*



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



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



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



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

**Prayers of Intercession**

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Radiant God.** The assembly responds in prayer. Let you light shine upon us.

▲ As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence*

**A** Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Guide your servants, especially *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Harbor of Grace Church in Muskegon; Nashville Assembly of God; Nashville Baptist Church; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

**C** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Radiant God,

**C** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Be with those who serve in the military, *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)*. Radiant God,

**C** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness, *especially Jennie Anderson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Greg Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Walker Heise, Brenda and Jack Hopkins, Kay Howell, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, the family of Martha Misak, Janet Moomey, Tricia Moredock, Kate Muraski, Larry Murphy, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Valeria Poholski, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, A.J., and Tom and Kathy*. Radiant God,

**C** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community (*local ministries may be named*). Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Radiant God,

**C** **Let your light shine upon us.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Radiant God,

**C** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**P** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

## Sharing the Peace

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

*(We share the peace of Jesus with one another.)*

## Offering Song

WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 19-20

☑ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, 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, we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the  
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,  
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray . . . Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

☑ **Nourish us with your Word, that with all who welcome you may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**


## Great Thanksgiving



**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Eucharistic Prayer

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**G** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

**G** **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

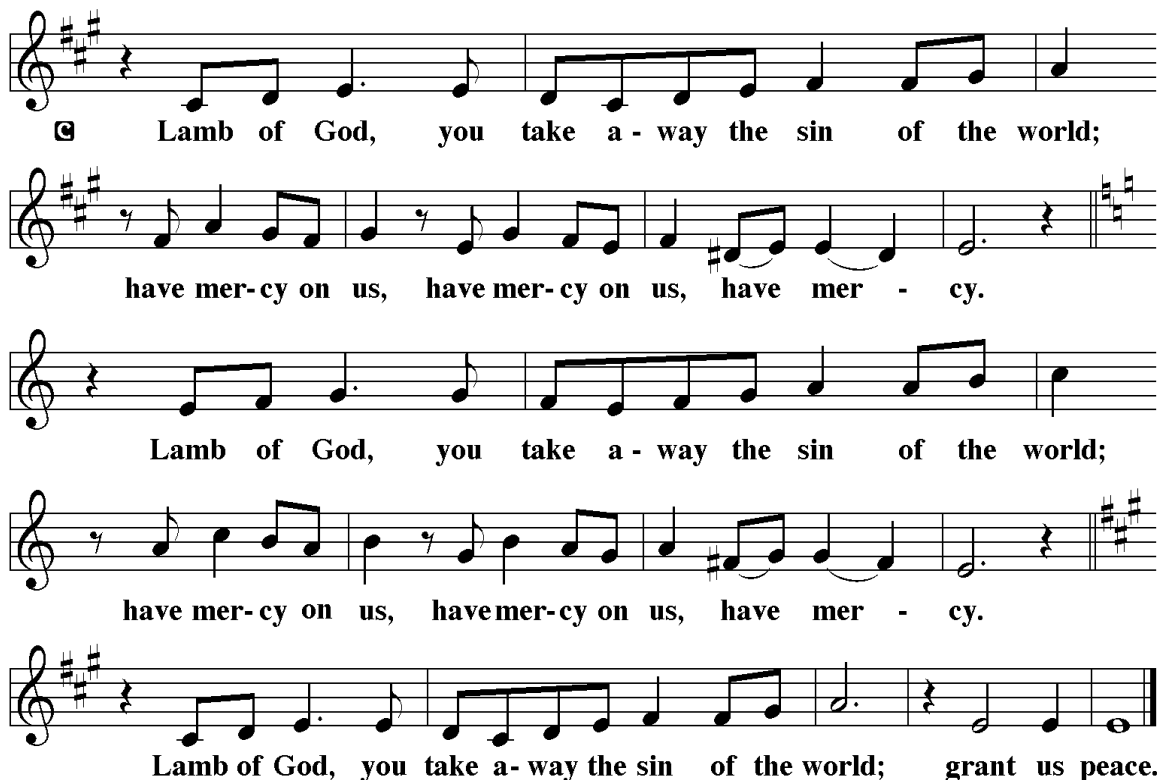
**P** Holy food for Holy people.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Communion Songs:

### *Lamb of God*

(WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 22-23)



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**  
**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**  
**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

### *Lamb of God*

ELW 336

### *Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*

ELW 312

## Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- G** Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Mission Minutes

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

### Blessing

- P** Live your lives in the Light of Christ, sharing God's rich love and grace. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
- G** Amen.

**Dismissal**

**A** Go in peace. Be light for the world.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**9:30 am**

**Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck**

**Lector – Mark Anton**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Cantor – Mark Kuhlman**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Lorraine and Bill Freedlund**

**Usher – Erin and Greg Franks**

**Then Knowing Begins**

There is a whole lot written about *knowing* in this gospel's pithy account of Jesus' debut. There is, for that matter, a lot written about knowing throughout John's gospel; it's part of this book of the Bible's particularity. But take note: Before any claims of knowing are dashed into this memoir, John the Baptizer bothers to reveal that there was, for him, a time before knowing—a time when he did not know Jesus. This little and perhaps overlooked detail, "I myself did not know him" (John 1:31), is like sugar water in a hummingbird feeder: a sweet invitation or coaxing to come, taste and see what is good.

That admission from John lures readers and hearers to pay attention not simply to events: the arrival of Jesus on the scene, his walking toward John, the act of baptizing with water, or even the flamboyant descent of a dove. These are descriptive details, but they are not the essence of what soon will overtake John and others—an invitation to know Jesus.

The difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Jesus is tucked in and all around this gospel text that leads initially to the Baptizer and then moves onto a pathway beyond him. Yes, Jesus is introduced as "Lamb of God." Yes, like a dove, the Spirit was seen descending. Vivid, symbolic details, for sure, about one coming to take away sin. But it is afterward, in Andrew and Simon's curiosity and willingness to follow, when Jesus asks "What are you looking for?" and urges them to "come and see," when they begin to stay together—they with Jesus and he with them—that knowing Jesus overtakes them and they fall into the grace of what he comes to take away and what he comes to give.

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. 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. We are invited to follow the Lamb of God, who takes away our sins and point to the grace and love we receive from God.

### Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 36  
Weekly Giving: \$1,825.00

Views: 206  
Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

#### Noisy Offering:

<b>Grace Projects Goal</b>	<b>\$ 25,252.00</b>	<b>Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall</b>
Received To Date	- \$ 23,592.00	
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$ 1,660.00</b>	

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$0  
Given this week for Miscellaneous Fund: \$250.00

**Parish Administrator** is Cindy Olson. Her office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Wed.

**Pastor Ken's office hours** are now 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon & Wed.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will meet Thursday, January 22, at 12:00 noon – all are welcome to come to communion at the beginning of the study and leave if you cannot stay for the bible study. The time for communion is designed to give those who cannot come on Sunday mornings another opportunity and to deepen the experience for those who can stay for the bible study with Christ's body and blood.

**Sharing God's Grace with All People, especially the outcast.** We, Grace Lutheran Church, Hastings, Michigan, believe we are all created in God's image and are all called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey, which includes the LGBTQIA+ community. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, race, nationalities, ethnic background, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and theological backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will continually strive to "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." Micah 6:8

**Brats are available for \$6.00 for a package of 4.**

**Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland and Grace Lutheran Church officially began a shared ministry on January 1, 2026. Pastor Ken Scheck II is now officially serving both congregations. The agreement, found in the January GraceGram, spells out a shared ministry of 50%. This will be a very different model for Grace, but it has been done in many settings throughout the ELCA. Pastor Ken will leave worship after the distribution of Communion in order to lead 11:00 am worship at Zion.**

The **Hand2Hand Program**, which helps feed local needy students over the weekends, requests any amount of the following:

Chicken Noodle Soup	Peanut Butter	Individual Oatmeal	Slim Jims
Snack Pack Pudding Cups	Granola Bars	Individual Applesauce Cups	
Ramen Noodles	Microwave Popcorn	Individual Mac and Cheese	

This list will remain the same for January and February, with the due dates being the last Sundays of each month (1/25 & 2/22). **Thank you so much for all donations!**

**Congregational Care Committee** will meet Monday, January 19, at 1:00 pm. *Please note the time change.*

**Women of Faith** will meet Tuesday, January 20, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**Congregation Council** will meet Tuesday, January 20, at 5:30 pm.

**Ash Wednesday Worship** is February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There will be no food that week. The Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday will begin with worship at 6 pm with the meal following the worship. Pastor Ken will lead worship and leave shortly after to lead worship at Zion Lutheran, Woodland.

**Blood Drive:** Join us as we set sail with **Graceful Cruises**. We will be departing from Grace Lutheran Church **February 23, 2026, at 10:00 am** aboard the ship “**A Bit of Grace**”. Book now by calling 1-800-Red-Cross or go online to schedule your time slot.