

# 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 25, 2026

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026

*The season of Epiphany begins January 6<sup>th</sup> 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

*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

*We Eat the Bread of Teaching*

ELW 518

## Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray, Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority.
- ☑ **Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

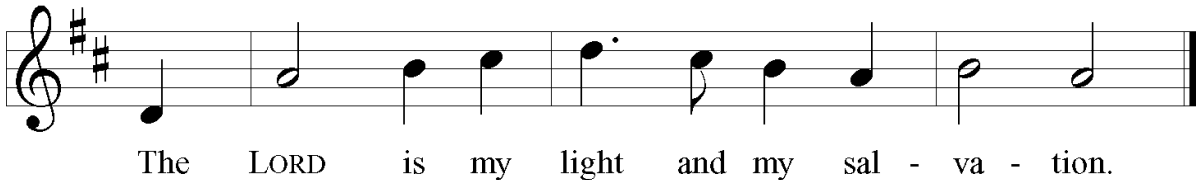
📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27:1, 5-13



Refrain



<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

<sup>5</sup> **One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;**

<sup>6</sup> to behold the fair beauty of the LORD

and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>7</sup> **For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;**

**he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high up- on a rock.**

<sup>8</sup> Even now he lifts up my head

above my enemies round about me.

<sup>9</sup> **Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;**

**I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>10</sup> Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>11</sup> **You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, LORD, will I seek.**

<sup>12</sup> Hide not your face from me,

nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

<sup>13</sup> **You have been my helper; cast me not away;**

**do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

☒ A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

☒ 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

**Matthew 4:12-23**

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Time

### Message

*Silence for reflection*

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of Day**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

**ELW 798**

## 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** Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Guide your servants, especially *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era; Nashville United Methodist Church; Orangeville Baptist Church in Plainwell; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

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

**A** Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Radiant God,

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

**A** Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. 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** Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick, *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, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Janet Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Valeria Poholski, the family of A.J. Scutt, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy*. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Radiant God,

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

**A** Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Radiant God,

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. 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

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

**C** **And also with you.**

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

## Offering Song

WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 19-20

**C** 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

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

**C** 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. **C** And al - so 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.

## 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.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

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

**C** **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.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Communion Songs:

### *Lamb of God*

*(WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 24-25)*



**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.**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ  
Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult*

ELW 674  
ELW 696

## 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.
- C Thanks be to God.

**9:30 am**

**Assisting Minister – Traci Wales**

**Lector – Dave Neeb**

**Musicians – Jeanette Markwart, Carl Neil, Kristi Winick**

**Cantor – Mark Anton**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Jamie Heise**

**Usher – Bill Freedlund**

**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.**

**Congregation Care Committee** will meet tomorrow at 1 pm, since the meeting was cancelled last week.

**Women of Faith** will meet Tuesday, January 27, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will meet Thursday, January 29, 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.

**Social Activities Committee** will meet on Monday, February 2, at 1:30 pm.

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

**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.

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 Jesus, as he calls each of us to follow. Let us be open to what Jesus is teaching each of us.

### Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 32 Views: 218  
~~Weekly Giving: Not counted~~ ~~Budget Amount: \$4,363.02~~

Zion: \$5,706.56  
**Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00 Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall**  
 Received To Date ~~-\$ 23,592.00~~  
**Total Needed \$ 1,660.00**  
~~Given this week toward Grace Projects: Not counted~~  
~~Given this week for Miscellaneous Fund: Not counted~~

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  |           |

Donations are due today. **Thank you so much for all donations!**

**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

## Just How Near Is It?

This anxious question is as old as Christians' faith: How near? How near is the kingdom of heaven? Near when angels announce a holy birth. Now? Near when Jesus unrolls a scroll in the synagogue, declaring the acceptable time. Now? Near when miracles of sight and sound and speech, bread and water and wine astound. Now? Near when the Son of David trots into Jerusalem on a donkey, talks of paradise at Golgotha, abandons the tomb. Now? Near when parades of calculations and predictions, numbering of days and decoding of signs make their guesses. Now?

John the Baptizer, eagerly baptizing converts and then, if hesitantly, Jesus himself—John the broadcaster, on behalf of a Savior for the world—gets arrested and executed. The hailed Messiah, Jesus, takes up residence in a tiny fishing village in a land overtaken and occupied by an empire of corruption and death. It would seem—or it *should* seem, if it does not—to anyone paying attention that the kingdom of heaven, if anywhere at all, was nowhere near.

“Repent” was Jesus’ inaugural message. Such a hard thing for people enduring in the hardest of times to hear. Repent of what, for what? By that time, ancient promises made in the name of God must have worn thin at best, if they had not already been tossed out as defective. In how many ways had unreliable promises and hopes for some heavenly kingdom been smashed in their collisions with each dawning day that proved to be just a copy of the grueling one before it?

Repent. Turn around. Pursue life in another direction. A gutsy dispatch! But it caught fire. It spread. It drew crowds because everywhere Jesus went, all through the everyday places of hard-hit dreams and suffering spirits and pained bodies—exactly in those places—Jesus showed himself to be the heavenly good news that heals, the joyful reason to repent of fear. So, welcome and become the kingdom of heaven now and here.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCH, February 8 after worship.** We are looking for soup makers to bring delicious soups and we’ll vote for the winner! There is a signup sheet in the Gathering Area. You’re also welcome to bring bread, other sides, or a dessert. Like the halftime show, these are often better than the main event. Money raised will go to ELCA World Hunger. We thank the Outreach Committee for putting this together for us.

### Lenten Wednesdays

February 25 12 noon

Ecumenical Luncheon here at Grace

Topic MERCY

February 25 6 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

Meal to follow

**Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for Seeking God’s Way**