

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-1:00 pm



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

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Lent is a season of preparation and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of the extravagance of God. The music of the season reflects our need to prepare for God's forgiveness and renewal, which draws us into God's forgiving action toward humanity and all of creation.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We are promised that the Earth will not be destroyed by God's commitment to renew all of creation. God pulls us into life by saving us and removing our sin through Jesus Christ. We are called to allow God's reign of life to sustain us in our times of trial and to stand with God who gives us life, so that others can experience God's grace in their life.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Song

A Mighty Fortress

ELW 504

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O
God. A - men.

Congregation:

Dialogue

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.
- G** Amen
- A** Behold, now is the acceptable time;
- G** now is the day of salvation.
- P** Let us celebrate that Christ bears our burdens.
- G** Saving us from sin through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray,
Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us,
and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises.
- ☪ **Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

📖 A reading from **Genesis**.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

📖 Word of God. Word of life.

☪ **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

☒ A reading from **Romans**.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

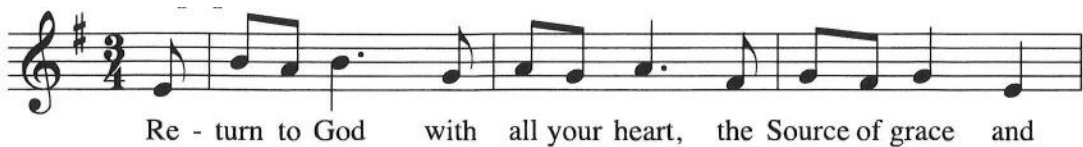
☒ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

(HS 1991 accomp. ed. pg. 10-11)



Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

☞ 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

On Eagle’s Wings

ELW 787

Please be seated.

Prayers

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

Ⓐ Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
A brief silence.

Ⓐ God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Empower our leaders and partners, *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Petoskey; Restoration Reformed Church in Middleville; Revive Bible Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* God, in your mercy,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. God, in your mercy,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. 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), and Nathen Schick (Markwart).* God, in your mercy,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God of all hope, provide shelter, strength, and peace to those who have suffered and endured abuse of any kind, particularly the innocent victims of child trafficking. We lift them into your care. God in your mercy,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated, *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, Carrie Johnson, Martha Klenk, Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Janet Moomey, Tricia Moredock, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Emma Poholski (pregnancy), Valeria Poholski, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Mira Thomas, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Brenda Watson & family, and Tom and Kathy.* God, in your mercy,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. God, in your mercy,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. God, in your mercy,

G Receive our prayer.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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

Seed That in Earth is Dying

ELW 33



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of
2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and
3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel
grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:
fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us
praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here
give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.
where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.
Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,
- ☞ **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, 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.**

The Proper Preface

- Ⓐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the waters of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name.
- ☞ **Amen**

The Prayer of Consecration

- Ⓐ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as Jesus comes to us in his holy supper.
- ☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- Ⓐ In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the 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.

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ 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

☞ All who are hungry, Come! The feast of grace is spread.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Communion Songs:	<i>Our Father, We Have Wandered</i>	ELW 606
	<i>Thy Holy Wings</i>	ELW 613
	<i>Bless Now, O God, the Journey</i>	ELW 326

Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . Generous God, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

☞ Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☞ God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

☞ Amen

Sending Song	<i>Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing</i>	ELW 545
---------------------	--	----------------

Sending

☞ Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Musician – Cindy Olson

Cantor – Mary Kuhlman

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

Usher – Deb Watson

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. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are called to worship the Lord God in faith. Let us walk with Jesus who leads us through our times of trial.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 55 Views: 198
 Weekly Giving: \$2020.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02
 Zion: \$5,706.56

Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00 Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall
 Received To Date -\$ 24,927.00
Total Needed \$ 325.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$0
 Given this week toward Non-Budget Funds:
 Miscellaneous: \$500.00 Outreach: \$200.00
 Youth Ministry: \$50.00 Helping Hands: \$500.00

Lent continues this Wednesday with the noon Luncheon here at Grace with the topic MERCY. Join us for worship at 6 pm with Breakfast for dinner after worship.

Lenten Wednesdays			
March 4	12 noon	Ecumenical Luncheon at Church of the Nazarene	Topic PASSION
March 4	6 pm	Holden Evening Prayer	Meal of follow
Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for Seeking God's Way			

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.

There are just a few more packages of brats available, \$6.00 for a package of 4. Get them while you can!

Women of Faith will meet Tuesday, February 24, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

Blood Drive: Join us as we set sail with **Graceful Cruises**. We will be departing from Grace Lutheran Church tomorrow, **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.

Lenten Devotionals "Places of the Passion" are available in the Gathering Area.

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.

Our **Social Activities Committee** is planning a group outing to see **Hastings High School's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" on Saturday, March 14th, at 2:00 pm.** Please purchase your tickets on the Hastings Performing Arts Center website. Tickets are \$11.00 plus an online service fee. If you need assistance in purchasing tickets, please contact Bill Freedlund. **There is a sign-up on the bulletin board in the Gathering for those wishing to go to dinner after the musical at Seasonal Grille.**

The Hand2Hand Program is under new leadership at Green Street Church (with whom we partner) and suggest the following items for donation. This list will stay the same each month. Due date is the last Sunday of each month. From the Outreach Committee: Thank You so much to all who donate to this program which helps feed local students in need over the weekends. The foods needed are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SLIM JIMS | FRUIT SNACKS |
| FRUIT CUPS | CHEEZ-ITS |
| CEREAL BARS | GRANOLA BARS PROTEIN BARS |
| INDIVIDUAL APPLESAUCE CUPS | TRAIL MIX |
| RAMEN NOODLES | RAISINS |
| INDIVIDUAL MAC AND CHEESE | MICROWAVE POPCORN |
| INDIVIDUAL OATMEAL OR CEREAL | |

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet Thursday, February 26, 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.

"Meet Your Candidates: A Forum for All Voters" on Thursday, February 26th at the Barry County Expo Center. Doors open at 6pm. There are 10 candidates, both Republican and Democratic, planning to attend. A flyer with the most current information is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Sponsored by MI Barry County Indivisible.

Forty Days of Humility

The devil gives Jesus three opportunities to assert himself as powerful and exceptional: to turn rocks into bread, to be saved by the angels, and to rule over all the earth. Three times Jesus rebuffs the devil, turning his attention to God and refusing to take the bait.

Anthony the Great, a desert father whose life mirrored the experience of Jesus in this text, once said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, ‘What can get through from such snares?’ Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility’” (Benedicta Ward, trans., *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, Cistercian, 1975). This is exactly how Jesus responds to the temptations offered by the devil: turning his attention back to God in humility, refusing the temptation to prove himself through miracles and acts of power.

During Lent, we are invited to engage in practices like fasting, almsgiving, and prayer to discipline our minds and bodies so we can return our full attention to the abiding love of God in Jesus. There will be a temptation to engage these practices as ways of puffing ourselves up, performing, or proving our worth. But Jesus calls us back to a Lent rooted in humility, engaging practices not for the sake of proving ourselves, but for deepening our trust in God.

Where might we be experiencing that temptation to puff ourselves up, perform, or prove our greatness? What practices might support a posture of humility, reminding us that God is the author of all good things, and that we are loved and sustained by a God who humbly took on flesh for the sake of the world?

May these forty days teach us to embrace humility and to trust that God walks with us, making all things new.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.