

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
March 1, 2026

# Second Sunday in Lent

## March 1, 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 new life. We may not sense this new life, especially during these winter days. The cold and harshness of life can seem hopeless, but God is committed to renew our lives. God plants seeds of new 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.*

**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.**

**Gathering Song**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

**ELW 335**

## Dialogue

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

**C** Amen

**A** Behold, now is the acceptable time;

**C** now is the day of salvation.

**P** Let us celebrate that Christ bears our burdens.

**C** Saving us from sin through the Holy Spirit.

## 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.

## Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray,  
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.
- ☛ **Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

Ⓔ A reading from **Genesis**.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Ⓔ Word of God. Word of life.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 121




### Refrain

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
my help comes from the LORD.

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes | from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- | en and earth.

<sup>3</sup> **The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.**

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; **

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> **The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.**

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore. **

## Second Reading

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

☒ A reading from **Romans**.

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

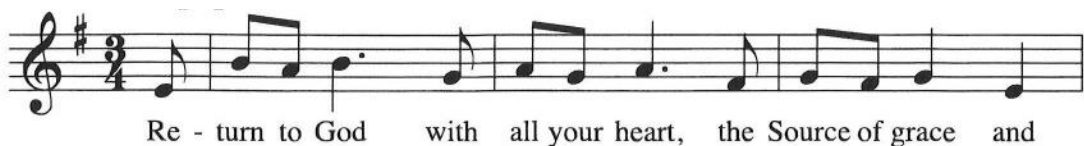
☒ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

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



## Gospel Reading

**John 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God..*

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through 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.*

*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.***

- Ⓐ Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs..

*A brief silence.*

- Ⓐ Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Empower our leaders and partners, *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oscoda; Solid Rock Bible Church in Delton; St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* God, in your mercy,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. God, in your mercy,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. 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, 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.**

**A** Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, *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, Ed Markwart, 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,

**G** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere God, in your mercy,

**G** **Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. 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.)*



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

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

## 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.*

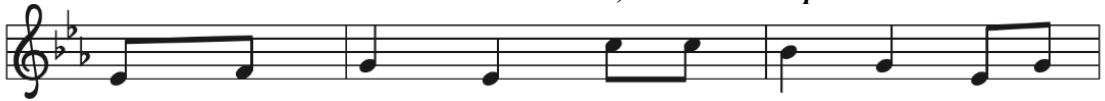
Communion Songs:

*We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus*

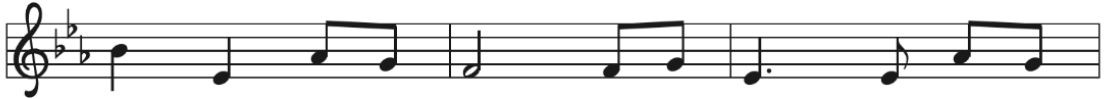
ELW 451

*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

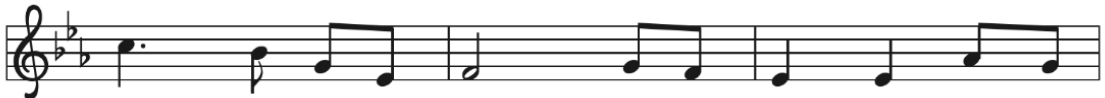


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

*Refrain*



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

## 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

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**ELW 803**

### Sending

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

#### 9:30 am

**Assisting Minister – Traci Wales**

**Lector – Mark Anton**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Cantor – Anna Scheck**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Diane Neeb**

**Usher – Dave Neeb**

**Lent continues this Wednesday with the noon Luncheon at Hastings Nazarene Church with the topic PASSION. Join us for worship at 6 pm with Breakfast for dinner after worship.**

#### **Lenten Wednesdays**

March 11	12 noon	Ecumenical Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church	Topic LOVE
March 11	6 pm	Holden Evening Prayer	Meal to follow

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

**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, March 3, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will meet Thursday, March 5, 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.

**The Easter Bulb Flower Sale** is underway. Extra order forms are available in the Gathering Area. Options are Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Easter Lilies, \$10 per plant. The flowers will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, then will be available to take home or donate, as indicated on the order form. Please mail the forms to Grace, or give them to Cindy in the office.

**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 CUPS  
CEREAL BARS  
INDIVIDUAL APPLESAUCE CUPS  
RAMEN NOODLES  
INDIVIDUAL MAC AND CHEESE  
INDIVIDUAL OATMEAL OR CEREAL

FRUIT SNACKS  
CHEEZ-ITS  
GRANOLA BARS PROTEIN BARS  
TRAIL MIX  
RAISINS  
MICROWAVE POPCORN

## A New Thing Is Underway

“How can anyone be born after having grown old?” asks Nicodemus (John 3:4), articulating a question that we as the church continue to ask today. Change is hard. Transformation seems impossible. And yet, Jesus responds that in baptism we are made as new as if we had been born again, with a new heart able to perceive the reign of God. All things are possible with God!

Nicodemus is justifiably perplexed by this proclamation. We may resonate with his confusion as we look at the world around us and in the mirror before us, wondering if anything can ever truly change. Can the violence and suffering of war ever truly end? Can this broken relationship be mended? Can this illness be healed? Can hatred, oppression, and abuse be thwarted, transformed by the power of love? When we look around us, change may seem in short supply.

And yet, when we get curious, we may also become aware of signs of change, transformation, and rebirth emerging all around us. In northern regions, we can see the melting snow and first shoots of green from rousing plants, signaling the change from winter to spring. We can see mutual aid networks, community care efforts, and collective action emerge in response to social and political chaos. We can sense the tug of the Holy Spirit on our hearts, calling us toward deeper humility, compassion, and solidarity as we live in the hope of Christ.

The Lenten call—to set down what we can to attend more fully to God—draws us into a posture of curiosity that may deepen our awareness of the small but potent ways God’s kingdom is already breaking in all around us. “Do not be astonished,” says Jesus (v. 7); a new thing is underway.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://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. 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 gives us insight into God's grace.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

**Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 37 Views: 182  
 Weekly Giving: \$810.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02  
**Ash Wednesday: \$145.00**



**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: \$0

**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.**