

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: 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
May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence. Today we go back to before Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus tells the disciples that they will join him, but they claim that they do not know the way. With the disciples and all of us, Jesus says that we all know the way, because he shows us. What a gift Jesus gives us by offering that we are claimed and given new life by his action for each and every one of us.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Commitment Sunday

Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- G** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- A** This is the day that the Lord has made;
- G** we will rejoice and be glad in it!

Gathering Song

God, We Gather as Your People

ACS 1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Easter Greeting

- ☐ Holy people of God, given new life through the gospel of Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand.
- ☑ **Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

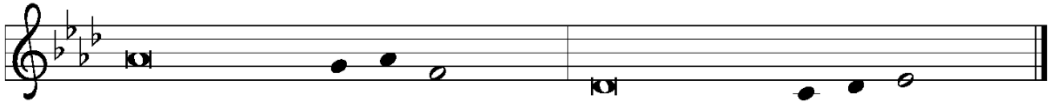
⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35



Refrain



Sing to God, who rides up - on the clouds.

¹ Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!** 


⁵ In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the |
God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**


⁹ You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.** 

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God!** 

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

☐ A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Hymnal Supplement pgs. 10-11

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

Gospel Reading

John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

☐ The Resurrection Gospel from **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

ELW 403



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.**

☐ Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

☐ O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Saginaw; Church of Christ in Hastings; Nashville Church of the Nazarene; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☑ **You give us new life.**

☐ Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made.

☑ **You give us new life.**

A Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. 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)*. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick, especially *Jennie Anderson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Walker Heise, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Carmen Karkau, Martha Klenk, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Emma Poholski (pregnancy), Edith Rose, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Samantha VandenBusch, and Tom and Kathy*. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times.

G **You give us new life.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give.

G **You give us new life.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Offering Prayer

- Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. 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.

☐ It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ We should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.
- ☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**
- ☐ 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.**
- Ⓟ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Ⓢ *Congregation:*

Hymnal Supplement pgs. 17-20

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

- Ⓟ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- Ⓢ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Congregation:

A - men, Come_ Lord Je - sus; A -
men, Come_ Lord Je - sus.

- Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the u-ni-ty of the Spir-it all glo-ry and hon-or is yours, O God, now and for-ev-er. A - - - men.

☑ 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

- ☐ Holy things for holy people.
- ☑ **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**
- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

Sit
Communion Songs *Lamb of God* *Hymnal Supplement pgs.20-21*

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

Additional Verses:

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:
You are the way of justice and peace:
You are the way of mercy and love:
You are the bread of life for us all:
You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

Final time:

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

Bind Us Together

WOV 748 (blue book)

Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
Bind us together in Love

1. There is only one God,
There is only one King
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing.

2. Fit for the glory of God,
Purchased by His precious Blood
Born with the right to be free
Jesus the victory has won.

3. We are the family of God
We are the promise divine
We are God's chosen desire
We are the glorious new wine.

What Feast of Love

WOV 701 (blue book)



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- Ⓑ Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Sending Song

Thine the Amen

ELW 826



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Usher – Doug Neeb

Fellowship - Bill & Lorraine Freedlund

Graduation Celebration is today. We celebrate that Elizabeth Markwart is graduating from Lakewood High School. Please feel free to stop by after worship and congratulate her accomplishment.

Commitment Sunday is today. We will be filling out pledge forms for the 2026-27 fiscal year. This information will help Grace leadership balance anticipated income with the budget. In early June, the Committee will have a draft budget available for review.

The Lakewood Area Choral Society will open its 41st season with a concert of sacred music at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 6th, at Peace Church in Middleville. A second concert (with much of the same music as the first) will be at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 28th, at Kilpatrick United Brethren Church in Woodland.

Faith books are still available in the Gathering Area. Please feel free to take as many books and you would like. We thank Steve Wales (Pat's son) for providing these books for us.

Women of Faith invites all women to join us Tuesday morning at church 11 am – noon as we study Growing Older and Wiser in our Bible study. If you have to miss a day – it is okay – just join us when you can.

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

Parish Administrator is Cindy Olson. **Her office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Mon – Wed.**
The nursery is available weekly during the worship service.

Hand2Hand We give a thank you to all who generously supported Hand2Hand this school year. May will be the last month to donate until school resumes. Due date is May 24th. Thanks for supporting this ministry. Outreach Committee

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet this Thursday 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. We continue to study the book of Ezekiel.

A Focus on Relationship

The prayers of Jesus in today's reading come at the conclusion of what is called the "Farewell Discourse" in John's gospel, which takes place prior to Jesus' arrest in the garden. In this discourse Jesus repeatedly emphasizes themes of relationship, mutual love, and service as he teaches, gives final instructions, and prays for the disciples.

In John, more than in the other three gospels, *relationship* is the ultimate focus of the life of faith. Jesus' mission on earth is to bring people into knowledge of and relationship with God the Father. Jesus exemplifies perfect relationship with the Father and wants all people to know this same intimacy with God. He also prays that his disciples might live in such a loving and mutual relationship with one another. Moreover, he prays that we might be one, so that our unity reflects the unity of the Father and the Son.

Our relationship with God is strengthened and refreshed in faith communities that worship together, attend to each other's needs, and serve others and creation in acts of love and compassion. In the Bantu languages and philosophy of Africa, *ubuntu* refers to the moral conviction that "I am because you are," or "I am because we are." Ubuntu recognizes that our well-being and our futures are bound up in the well-being and the future of others.

Christianity is a religion of relationship, not of self-efficacy. In an increasingly individualistic and fragmented world, our faith in Christ demonstrates a bold witness to the power and beauty of community. How might Jesus be leading us and the church in this subversive work? How might mutual love and interdependence be signs of our faith, forging a path of healing for our broken world?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.