

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 - Wed 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

- A** O Lord, open our lips,
G and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
- P** Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
G that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- A** Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
G who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

Gathering Song

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P** The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
G And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray . . . Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
G By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

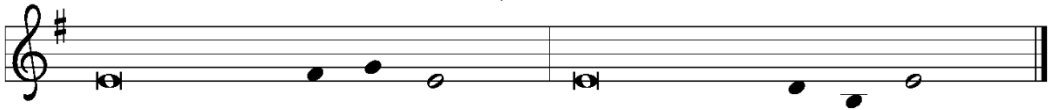
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13



Refrain



Your paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty, O God, your




paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty.

[¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**


³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.** 

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]** 

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**


¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with
grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing. 

Second Reading


Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

 A reading from **Romans**.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

TFF accomp. ed. pg. 37



☒ 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 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear..

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

☒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

☐ 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

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers

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

- Ⓐ Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sutton's Bay; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Middleville; Grace Brethren Bible Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* God of grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. 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 of grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

A God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns, *especially for Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kay Corrigan, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, the family of Anne Johnson, Martha Klenk, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Emma Poholski (Lincoln Theodore Poholski), Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Gary Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waege, Clyde Watson Jr., and Tom and Kathy.* God of grace,

G **Receive our prayer.**

A God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

G **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in. God of grace,

G **Receive our prayer.**

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

TFF accomp. ed. pg. 20

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and a triplet of eighth notes in the final staff.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.**

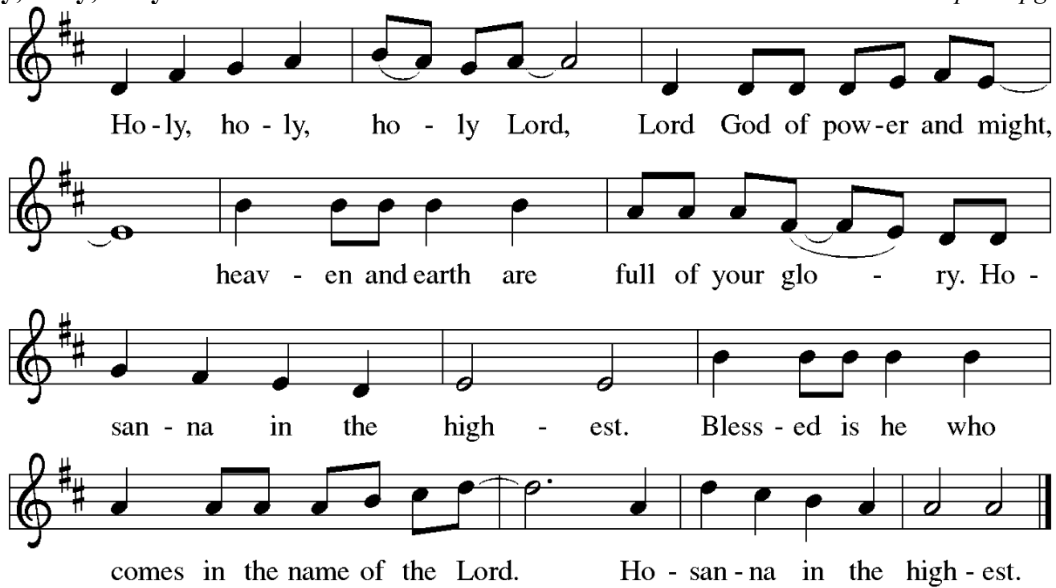
☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ **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

TFE accomp. ed. pg. 21



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. 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.**

- Ⓟ 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.**

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

- Ⓟ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

Communion Songs

Lamb of God

TFF accomp. ed. pg. 44

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

The musical score is written on four staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a bracket with the number '3') over the words 'a-way', 'sin', 'mer-cy', and 'a-'. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

God of the Fertile Fields

ACS 1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- Ⓑ Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

☩ God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☩ **Amen.**

Sending Song

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW 550

Sending

☩ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Anna Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Jamie Heise

Usher – Erin and Greg Franks

Fellowship - Jeanette Markwart

The Annual Congregational Meeting takes place after worship. The 2026 Annual Reports will be passed out with the worship folder. The extras are available in the Gathering Area.

Noisy Offering collected today will benefit Barry County Cares. Noisy Offering is collected the second Sunday of each month.

Women of Faith will not be meeting in July and August. We will resume September 15, 2026. Our next Bible study topic will be revealed closer to September. Have a nice summer everyone.

The Generous Gardener

In this parable, Jesus tells the disciples a story of a gardener. While many people carefully plan where to plant seeds (with some modern farmers using technology to map out, down to the millimeter, where each seed will grow best), the gardener in Jesus' story scatters seed generously, almost carelessly.

As the disciples, familiar with farming and fishing, would have known deep within themselves, things don't come easy in this life. Faith is the same. Like seeds that take their time, when the conditions are right to grow and bear fruit, faith isn't always a steady path. There are seasons of cold isolation—times when prayer and devotions don't warm the heart as they once did. There are seasons of scorching busyness—times when endless distractions overwork the head enough to overheat. Faith might look different at these times, but no matter the season, faith is never gone.

Ultimately, faith isn't measured down to the millimeter. Instead, this haphazardly generous gardener extends faith into the impossible places. And when rocks, sun, or thorns from this world and within choke this faith that God has given us, the impossible becomes possible. In every season, God comes again and again to sprinkle more and more seed and to reach out to us before we can even try to grow on our own. And with time and divine Presence, that seed of faith starts to sprout.

Because of this never-ending abundance, every season is an opportunity to engage with God the generous gardener, whose nearness is always available and who gives the gift of faith, no matter the conditions. Today, let the summer breeze remind you of how close God's Spirit is, always nurturing and providing the abundance that is the essence of faith.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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. Today we experience God's grace in abundance. As we have received God's grace, may we share grace with others.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 36
Weekly Giving: \$1,475.00

Views: 190
Budget Amount: \$4,363.00



Offerings received to date through June	\$200,752.29
Offerings received in July	+ \$ 1,475.00
Year to date total offerings	<u>\$202,227.29</u>

Update on the Parking Lot Cement Project. THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE CEMENT PROJECT A SUCCESS! Please be careful when entering the building. Work in the flower beds continues and will be finished in the next few weeks. We are blessed by your generosity.

Brown Bag Bible Study, Thursdays Noon – 1pm: Have you ever been confused about the book of Revelation? Come join us as we discuss this book and our thoughts. Remember Communion is offered before each study begins.

The nursery is available weekly during the worship service.

Parish Administrator Cindy Olson's office hours are 10 am to 2:30 pm Mon – Wed.
Pastor Ken's office hours are 10 am to 12 noon Mon & Wed.

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.

The lunch served at the car show on July 26th is in need of Cookies / desserts for the meal. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign up and indicate what you would like to bring and the amount so we can get an accurate count. **Also there is another sheet to sign up to provide help with the meal clean up activities.** We appreciate your willingness to help with this event. A reminder: **Worship under the tent is at 10:00 that morning.**