

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
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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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.

Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

A You are the treasured people of the Lord,

G a people holy to the Lord our God.

P Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children

G Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

A One does not live by bread alone,

G but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Gathering Song

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715 (red book)

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 . . . O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

G Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

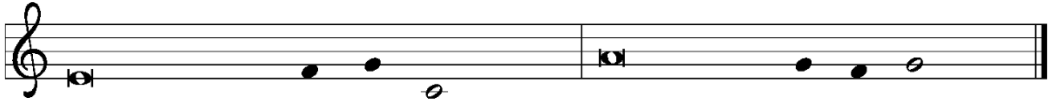
📖 A reading from **Genesis**.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

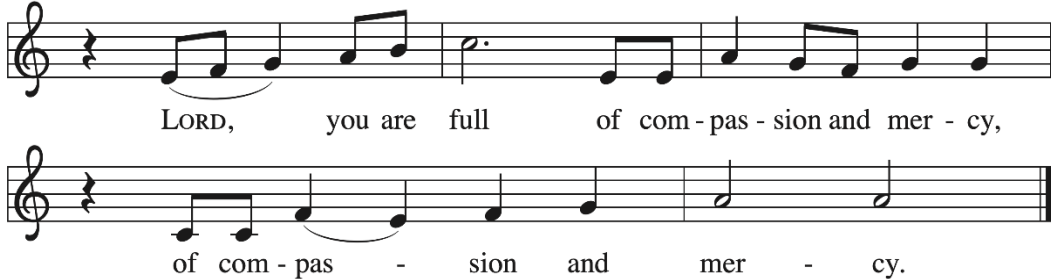
📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 103:1-7 8-13



Refrain



[¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;** 

⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.]

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;** 

⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. 

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Liturgies accomp. ed. pg. 138



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

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

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

▣ 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

Arise in body or spirit.

Song of the Day

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708 *(red book)*

Please be seated.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Gracious God.** The assembly prays, **Your mercy is great.***

- Ⓐ Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Covenant Hospital Pastoral Care Department in Saginaw; Inter-Lakes Baptist Church in Delton; Journey Church in Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. 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).* Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

A Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need, *especially Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Aurora Collins, Kay Corrigan, Byron Cramsie, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Amy Hansen, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Mindi Longcor, Ed Markwart, Lexi Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, the family of Larry Murphy, Jody Neagle, Ron Neil, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Josh Reynolds, Steve Sensiba, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Gary Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waege, Clyde Watson Jr., Brody, Tom, and Kathy.* Gracious God,

G Your mercy is great.

A Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Gracious God,

G Your mercy is great.

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Gracious God,

G Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

In the Singing

ELW 466



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
C Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. 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.
- P** 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 accomp. ed. pgs. 142-143

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

ELW accomp. ed. pg. 146



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, Lamb of God.

***One Bread, One Body
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup***

**WOV 710 (blue book)
WOV 706 (blue book)**

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

WOV 721 (*blue book*)

Sending

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck

Lector – Amy Poholski

Cantor – Mark Anton

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Phil Poholski

Usher – Traci Wales

Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart

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.

The Social Activities Committee has planned a trip to Chihuly at Meijer Gardens on Friday October 9th. We may be able to get group rates if we have 15 individuals. Please sign up as soon as possible on the bulletin board. With group rates the tram can meet us at the front door. . Please consider this fellowship activity.

School is back in session!! Items needed for hand2hand are as follows:

Microwave popcorn, Protein bars, Trail mix, Raisins, Slim Jims, Individual cereal & oatmeal, Cheez-its, Fruit snacks, Fruit cups, Individual Applesauce, Mac 'N Cheese Cups or boxes, Ramen Noodles, Granola bars, and Cereal bars. **Any amount of any of these items is greatly appreciated.** This list is expected to remain pretty much the same throughout the school year. We will know soon how many students are in need. These food items help students who may otherwise be HUNGRY during the weekend when not receiving meals at the schools.

Thank You!! - Outreach Committee

Forgiven and Freed

Today's gospel reading is all about forgiveness. In the complex web of human relationships, forgiveness often feels messy. We may not understand it, and it may at times feel entirely out of reach. Yet, as Christians, we are called to wrestle with the promise that even when forgiveness feels impossible, there is room for us and for others in the wideness of God's mercy. How do we make sense of this?

We might begin by experiencing God's forgiveness ourselves. Many worshipping communities begin the service with a time of confession and forgiveness. Together we name out loud the ways we have failed to love God and neighbor, the ways we have failed to recognize ourselves or one another as beloved children of God. We name how we have been complacent in systems of injustice, how we have harmed one another directly, and the hurtful things we don't even know we've done.

This practice may seem deeply unsettling; after all, where else do we greet each other with a list of all the things we've done wrong? But confession is also freeing. It gives us permission to stop pretending we have it all together. It allows us to shed the weight of our mistakes and lay down our burdens so our hands and hearts are ready to receive God's mercy.

And then, week after week, we hear God's words of forgiveness for us and for our neighbors. We are reminded that there is always and forever enough of God's grace and forgiveness to go around. The public declaration of our forgiveness frees us to enter into the rest of our worship service with open and grateful hearts. And then God's forgiveness sends us out in the world to practice the hard work of forgiving others and receiving their forgiveness in turn, knowing that God will meet us again and again with mercy and grace.

From 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. Today Jesus tells us how we are to continually forgive one another. Let us follow Jesus' command and share forgiveness and love when there is difficulty between each other+.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 44 Views: 230
Weekly Giving: \$4,460.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.00



Offerings received to date through August 31	\$ 16,217.19
Offerings received on September 6	+ \$ 4,460.00
Year to date total offerings (<i>fiscal year</i>)	\$ 20,677.19

Non-Budget Giving: Grace Projects: \$ 67,218.00
Helping Hands: \$350.00
Outreach: \$10.00 (calendar purchase)

Parking Lot Project is finished. We are thankful for the very generous gift from the Anton Family that made the pavement of our parking lot possible.

Brown Bag Bible Study is in the middle of a real cliff hanger. Join us **Thursdays noon to 1pm at church** as we discuss the final message from Jesus in the book of Revelation. Communion is offered before each study begins.

Upcoming meetings (held at Grace):

- **Congregational Care Committee – Monday, September 14 at 1:00pm**
- **Outreach Committee – Monday, September 14 at 3:00pm**
- **Women of Faith (WOF) returns September 15, 2026, 11am – noon. We are starting a new Bible Study: Spiritual Gifts. All women are welcome.**

We are collecting individually packaged snacks for area students. Bring them in and put them on or around the Giving Tree, located near the main entrance.

“God’s Creation” 2027 wall calendars are available for \$10 each. (Get yours soon – when they’re gone, they’re gone.)

Our Fall outdoor "Hot Dog Roast and Fellowship" (weather permitting) will be held right after worship on Sunday, October 4th. Please bring a chair and enjoy this activity.