Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

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

Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026

Christ the King is the end of the season for the Christian calendar. Today's color is white representing the purity and glory due Jesus our king. We praise God for our servant king, who stands at the end of time welcoming us into the eternal kingdom of God's reign.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome
Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit
Opening Sentences
A You are the treasured people of the Lord,
C **a people holy to the Lord our God.**

P Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children
C **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,
C **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Gathering Song ***Crown Him with Many Crowns*** **ELW 855** *(red book)*
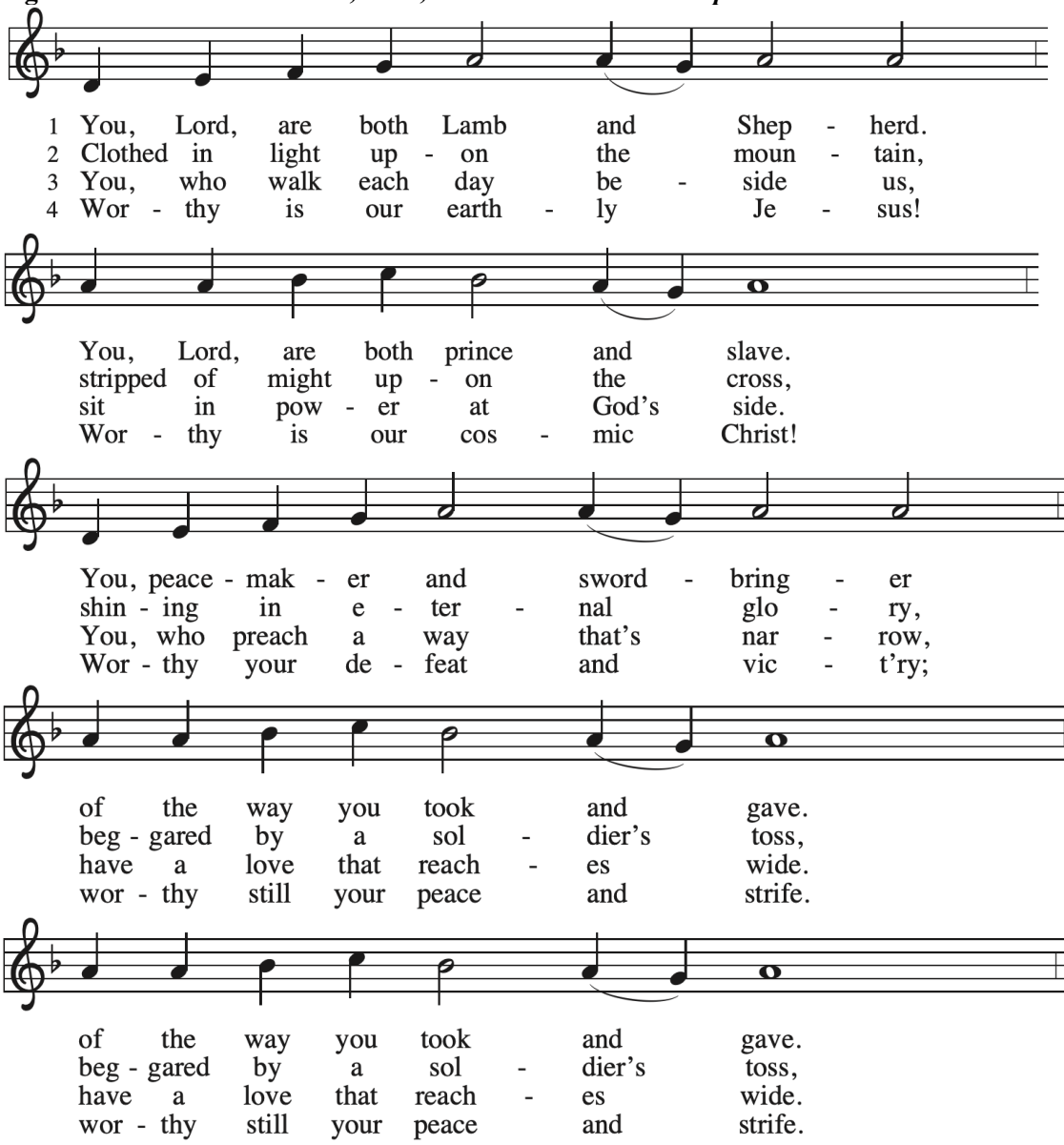
Dialogue

P Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
C **For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!**

A All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
C **Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.**

P All colors and races give hearty praise!
C **Let us share your love with all. Amen**

Song of Praise ***You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*** **ACS 954**



Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray… O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.

C Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through 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 **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people..

L A reading from **Ezekiel.**

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds
sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue
them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into
their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the
inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich
pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make
them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will
bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will
feed them with justice.
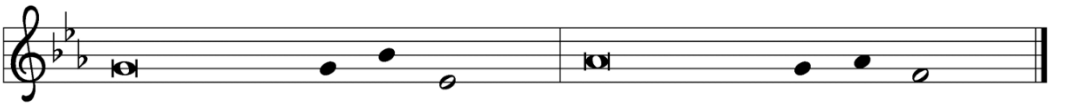
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the
lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with
your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer
be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed
them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be
prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.
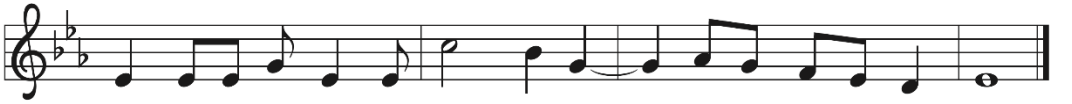
L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7a



℟ **= Refrain**



[1] Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
[3] For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours. ℟

[5] The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
[7a] For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. ℟

Second Reading **Ephesians 1:15-23**

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

L A reading from **1 Thessalonians.**

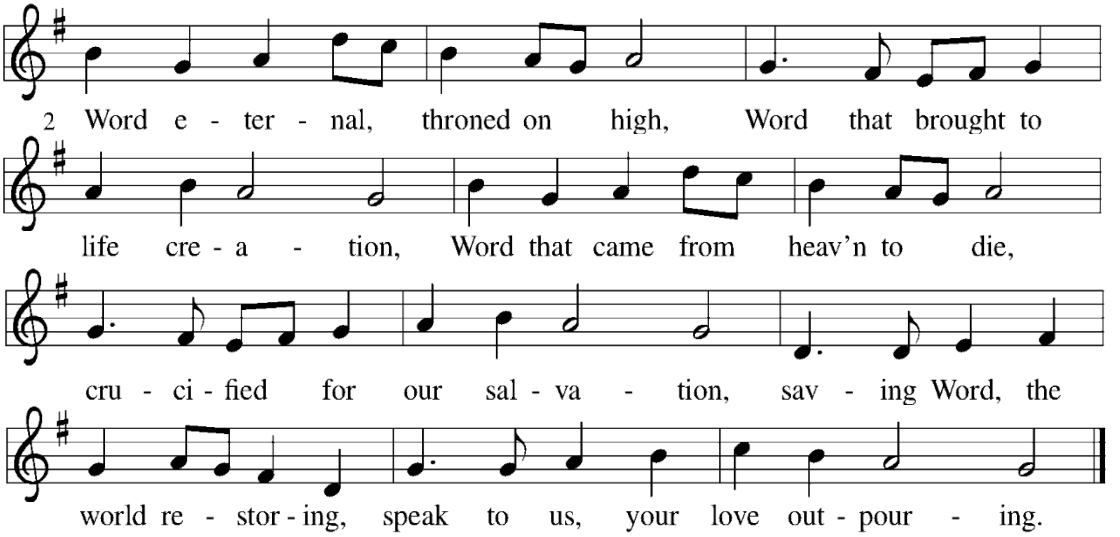
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason
16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to
know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to
which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and
what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of
his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and
seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power
and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation **ELW 510, vs. 1**



Gospel Reading **Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

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

℃ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

℗ The Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.
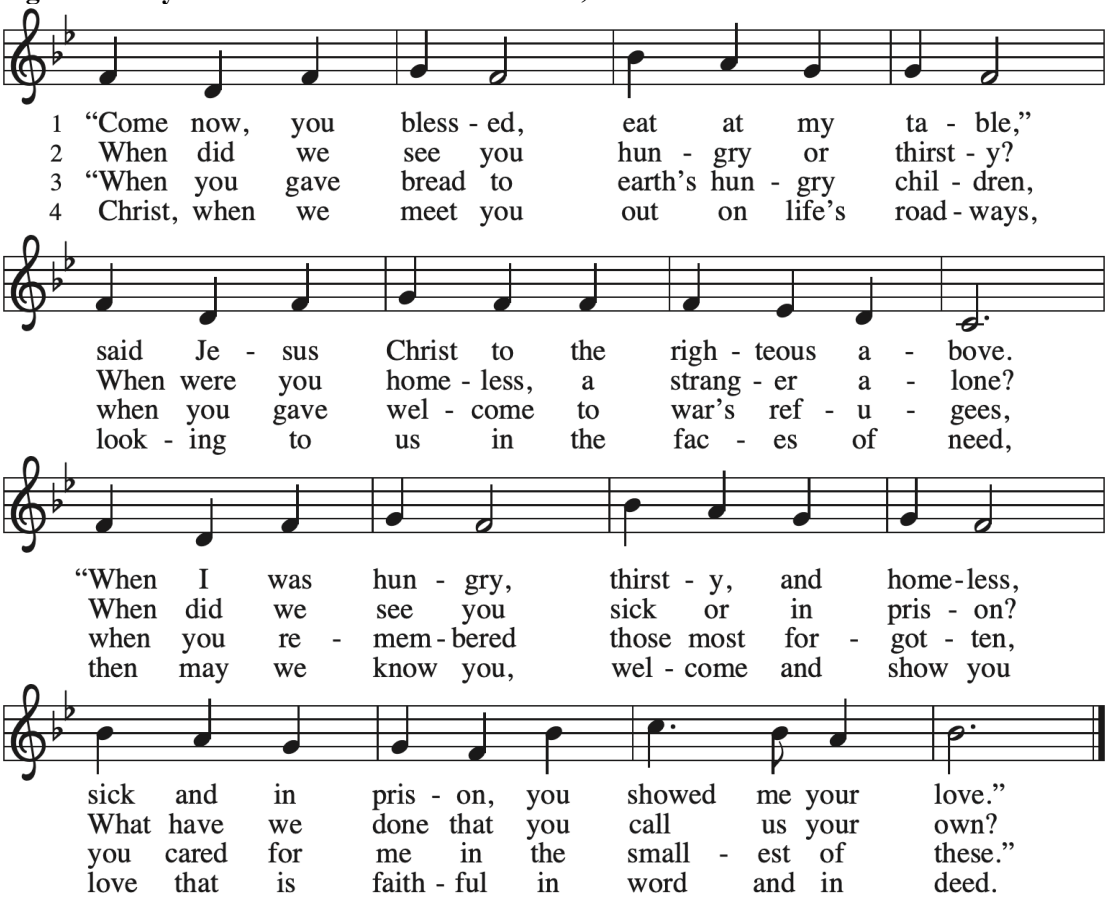
Children's Time

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 ***Come Now, You Blessed*** **ACS 1059**



Please sit or kneel.

Prayers

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

A United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate, our synod companion St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Bridgeport; Restoration Christian Reformed Church in Middleville; Revive Bible Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination (*places or events may be named*). God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. 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,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need*, especially Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kay Corrigan,0 Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Amy Hansen, Aurora Hawkins, Jamie Heise and newly born Dalton Lee, Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Gabby Kriebiehl, Ricky Long, Ed Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Bob Power, Lyle Proksch and family, Samantha Replogle, Steve Sensiba, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Gary Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Linda Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waege, and Kay Wagner, Clyde Watson Jr.* God in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

P Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C **Amen.**
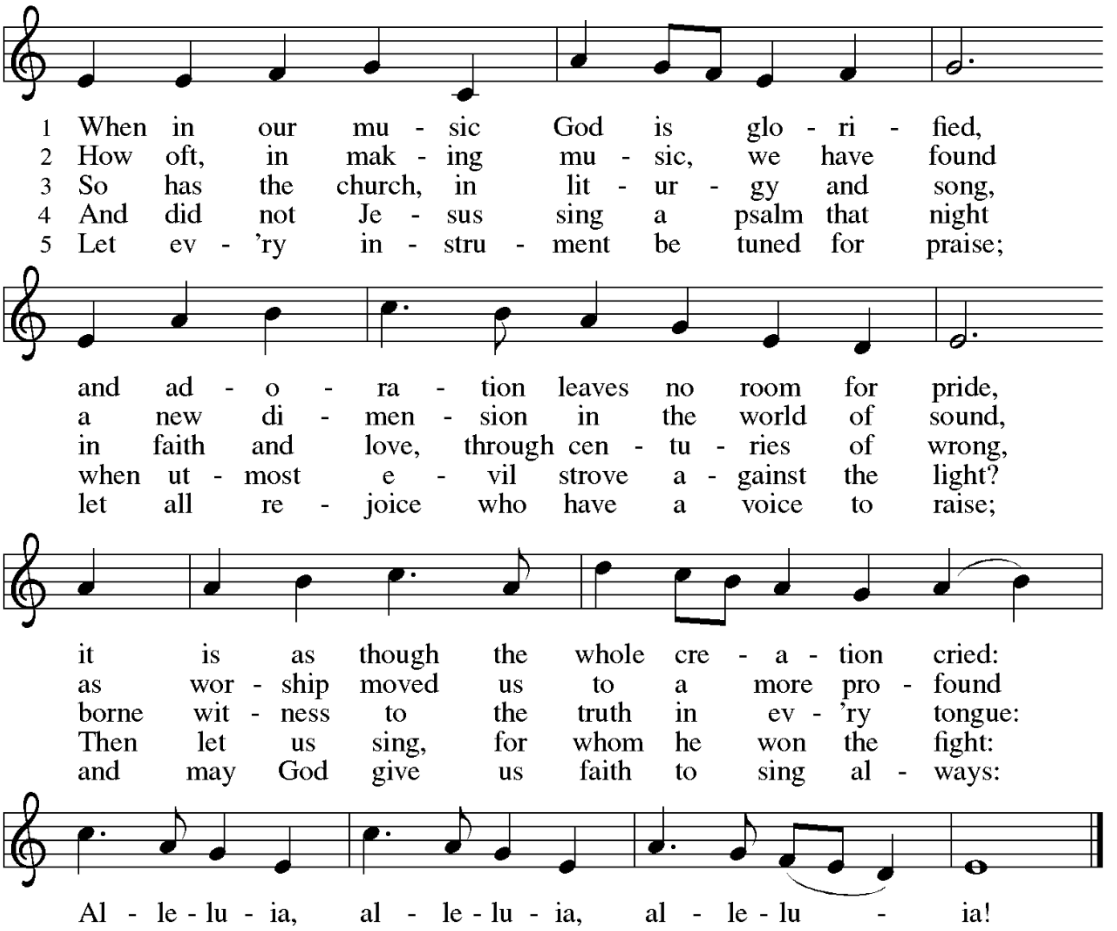
Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.** *(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)*

Offering Song ***When in Our Music God is Glorified*** **ELW 850**



Now we join Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the sharing of our financial resources. If you are a first-time visitor, you are our guest and we do not expect you to give an offering. For members and friends, the mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church is completely dependent upon your generous giving. Offering plates are located near the baptismal font.

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

℗ 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:

tune: Thine the Amen

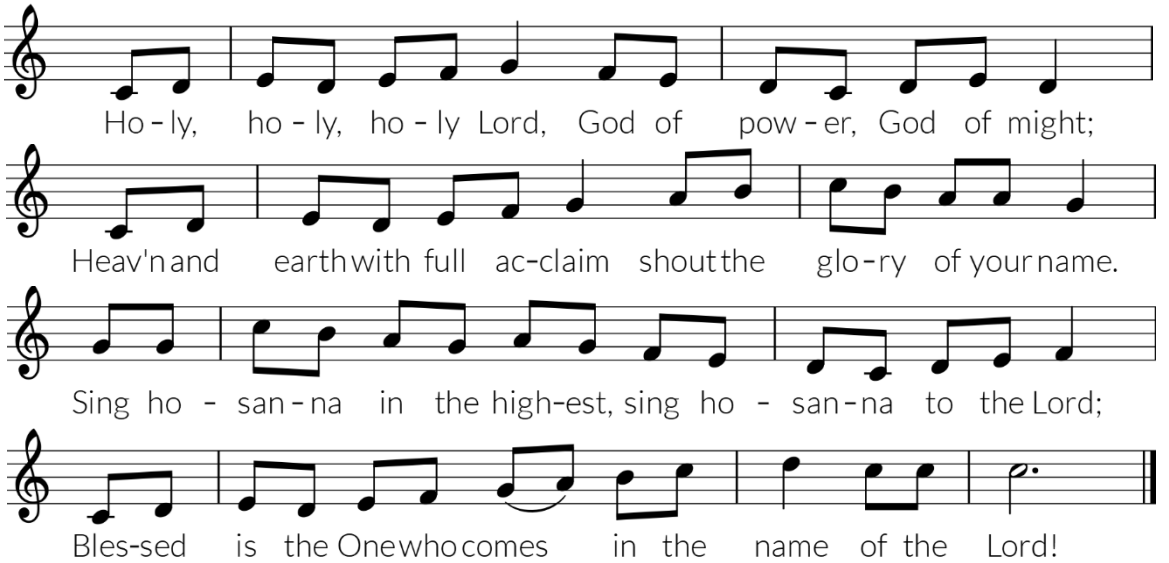


Table Prayer

℗ 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.**
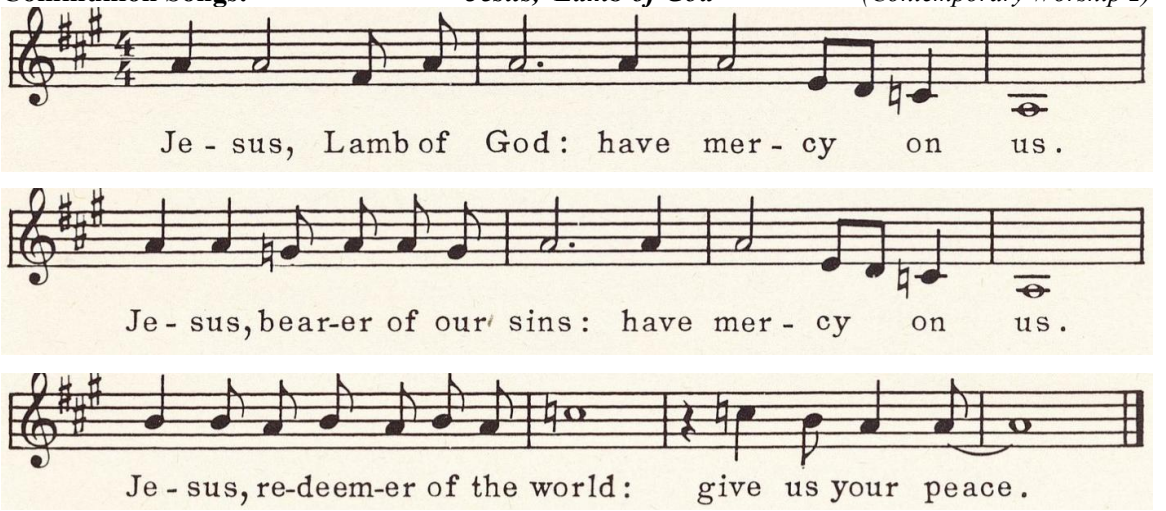
Invitation to Communion

℗ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

℃ **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

Communion Songs: ***Jesus, Lamb of God*** *(Contemporary Worship 2)*



Beautiful Savior **ELW 838** *(red book)*
For the Fruit of All Creation **ELW 679** *(red book)*

Prayer after Communion

A 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.

C **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

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song ***Lift High the Cross*** **ELW 660** *(red book)*

Sending

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

<u>9:30 am</u>
Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Musician – Cindy Olson
Cantor – Paul Kuhlman
Cup Bearer – Jan Schreiner
Usher – Mark Anton
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship Hour – Paul Kuhlman

It's time for a new photo directory! Plans are made for a photographer to be at Grace after church **today**. A directory will be created from these pictures. The pictures are available for purchase, if desired. *You are invited to have pictures of your extended family. These pictures of extended family or friends will not be included in the directory, but the photographer is available to you for free to get a picture of Great Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad and children.* If you aren't an "official" member of Grace, but think of Grace as your home congregation, please have your photo taken for the directory!

Brown Bag Bible Study is on Thursdays, Noon – 1pm. We will not meet Thanksgiving Day. Come join us as we study the first book of the Bible: Genesis. Remember communion is offered before the study begins.

There will be a HAMA (Hastings Area Ministerial Association) **Community Thanksgiving Service** held at Hope United Methodist Church **next Sunday, November 22, at 6:00 pm**.

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.

Styrofoam Recycling – Thank you to Russ and Linda Trongo who have volunteered to take the (clean) Styrofoam containers collected at Grace to the recycling facility. There is a large, clear plastic bag in the High School classroom off the fellowship hall. Please place any Styrofoam you bring in that bag. When the bag is full, it will be taken to the facility.

The **Hand2Hand Program** helps to provide needs for 76 local students each weekend. **The foods being collected are:** 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. **Items are due the last Sunday of the month. Thank You!!** - Outreach Committee
"God's Creation" 2027 wall calendars are available for $10 each. (Get yours soon – when they're gone, they're gone.)

A Game Day is scheduled TODAY after the worship service. Some games are provided but bring one along! Round up a group for cards - card table and chairs available. Hope to see you there!

The nursery is available during the worship service. Our Attendant is Aurora Hawkins.

Women of Faith (WOF) will not meet this Tuesday, November 24. We will meet next week on Tuesday, December 1, at 11am. We are studying Spiritual Gifts. All women are welcome.

Advent is coming! *Bringing the Light of God to All.* Come join us on December 2, 9 and 16 here at Grace Lutheran Church for Holden Evening Prayer at 6 pm. Right after worship we will have a meal. You are also invited to attend community Advent noon lunches and presentations. On December 2 we gather at Hastings Nazarene Church with Pastor Bryce Feighner presenting *Children of the Light.* **On December 9 we gather at Grace Lutheran Church with Pastor Nick Marlatt presenting *Preparing in the Light.*** On December 16 we gather at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church with Pastor Scott Loomis presenting *A Light for All.* We hope you can join us for part or all of these Advent celebrations.

All are Welcome!
We believe we are all created in God's image and are all called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey, which includes the LGBTQIA+ community. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, race, nationalities, ethnic background, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and theological backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will continually strive to "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Save the date! A Christmas Fellowship Time will be held after worship on December 20th!
Watch for more information later!

Jesus' Leadership Style

Many workplaces invite staff members to determine their unique leadership styles through inventories or assessments. Countless resources are available to aid this process, from short online quizzes to lengthy books that probe people's motivations for leading in particular ways. The results of these assessments can reflect how people's personalities and values interact with their natural skills and gifts. When coworkers discuss the results together, they can determine how best to work as a team, playing to one another's strengths.

On this Christ the King Sunday, we might ponder this question: What is Jesus' leadership style? The gospel writers offer countless examples of Jesus leading his ragtag community of followers. He shares meals, preaches and teaches, offers healing, and sometimes gets into hot water with religious and political authorities. Looking at different facets of his ministry, we might say his compassion and relational strength shine through in moments of one-on-one connection and healing; his strong teaching presence and communication gifts dominate during lengthy discourses like the Sermon on the Mount; his generous hospitality stands out in the miracles of multiplication and in countless meals shared with people of all sorts.

Today's gospel reading presents a very particular side of Jesus, which we might add to this list of his leadership qualities: He is a visionary, prophetic advocate for justice. His instructions to feed, clothe, and visit people who live on the margins offer us an image of Jesus that challenges his followers to follow the call to work for justice. How do Jesus' strong words move us to live differently? How will we and the church respond to the call to justice that echoes through the ages?

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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 realize that Jesus is our king. Yet, Jesus' kingship is not about power but the sacrifice of service. Let us use our gifts and abilities to serve one another and use what God has given us.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Attendance: 43 Views: 202
Weekly Giving: $4,310.00 Budget Amount**:** $4,363.00
Monthly contribution from Zion: $5,706.57

Offerings received to date through November 8	$ 55,461.29
Offerings received on November 15	+ $ 4,310.00
Zion Lutheran	+ $ 5,706.57
Year to date total offerings *(fiscal year)*	$ 65,477.86

Non-Budget (Mission): $10.00 (Calendar)
Non-Budget (Outreach): $1,630.00 (Pasties)

Budget Focus Item

Snow Plow	$ 1,500.00	Office Supply	$ 3,900.00
Given toward line	-$ 1,500.00		- $ 1,250.00
Still needed to meet goal	$ 0.00		$ 2,650.00

Budget line-item funding The Grace council voted to invite the congregation to contribute toward line-items of the budget. As you see, the entire budget line for Snow Plow has been received. We also received contributions toward Office Supply. We still have $3,900.00 to go before fully funding the Office Supply line. Once that is near being funded we will start on the next line item being highlighted for this funding project. Thank for your consideration. A reminder, that this program does not replace your "normal or regular" offerings toward the church. It is intended to be a gift beyond regular offerings.