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-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
November 8, 2026

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 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 ***My Lord, What a Morning*** **ELW 438**

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.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day
A O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
C **Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading **Amos 5:18-24**

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

L A reading from **Amos.**

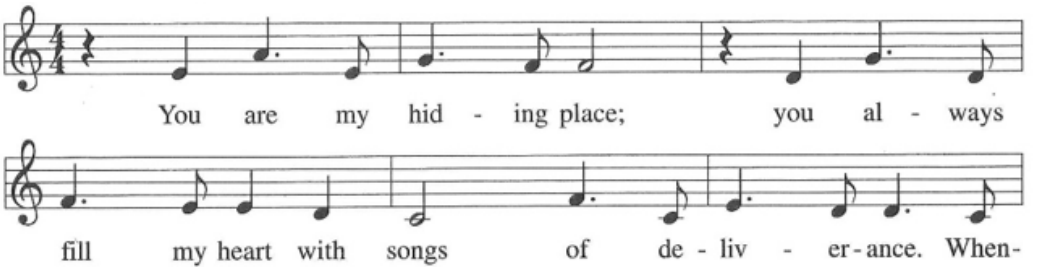
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
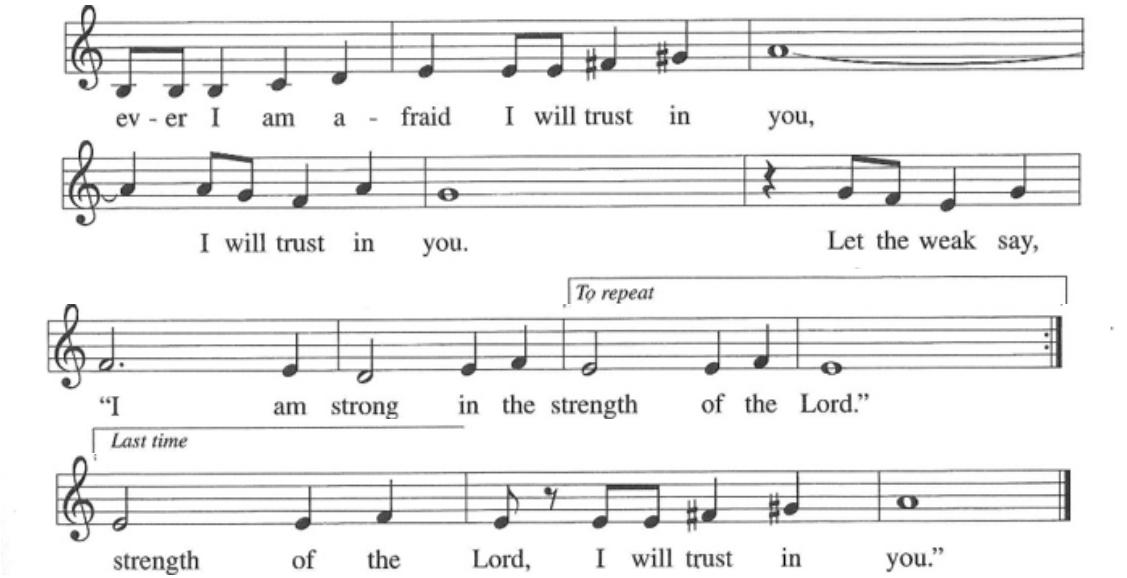
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70 ***You Are My Hiding Place*** **W&P 160**





Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

L A reading from **1 Thessalonians.**

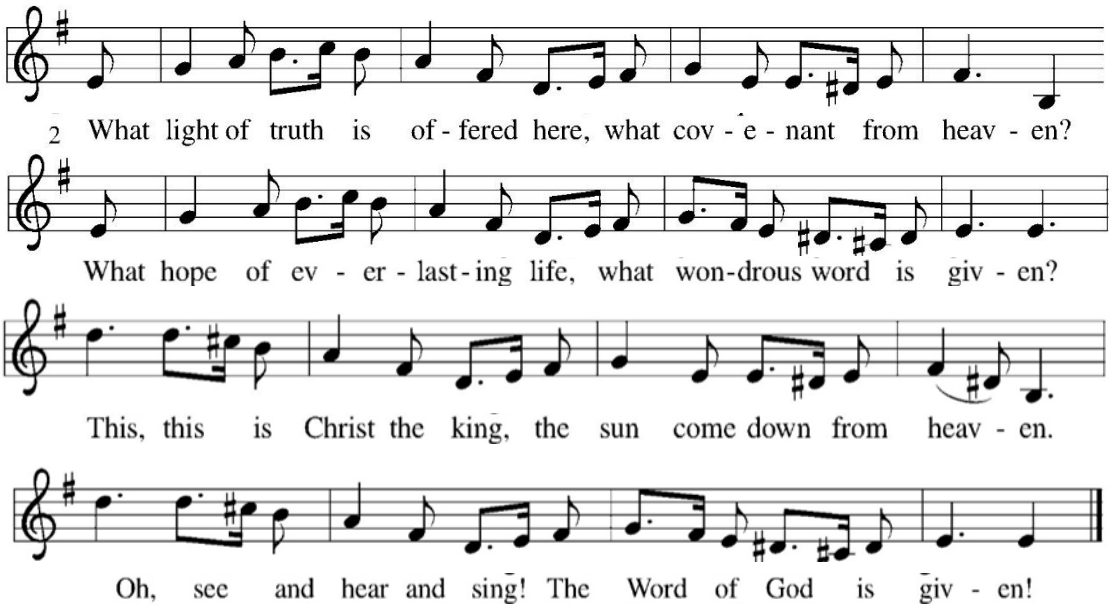
13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare
to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the
dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds
together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore
encourage one another with these words.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation **WOV 701, vs. 2**



Gospel Reading **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

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

© **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

℗ 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 ***I Am the Bread of Life*** **ELW 485**

Baptismal Liturgy for Lincoln Theodore Poholski *See insert.*

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 You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate, our synod companion Messiah Lutheran Church in Bay City; Peace Church in Middleville; Peace United Methodist Church in Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for 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)*. God in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. *We pray especially for Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kay Corrigan, Byron Cramsie, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Amy Hansen, Aurora Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Gabby Kriebiehl, Ricky Long, Joe Longcor, Ed Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Bob Power, Lincoln Osborn, 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 Clyde Watson Jr.* God in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. 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.**
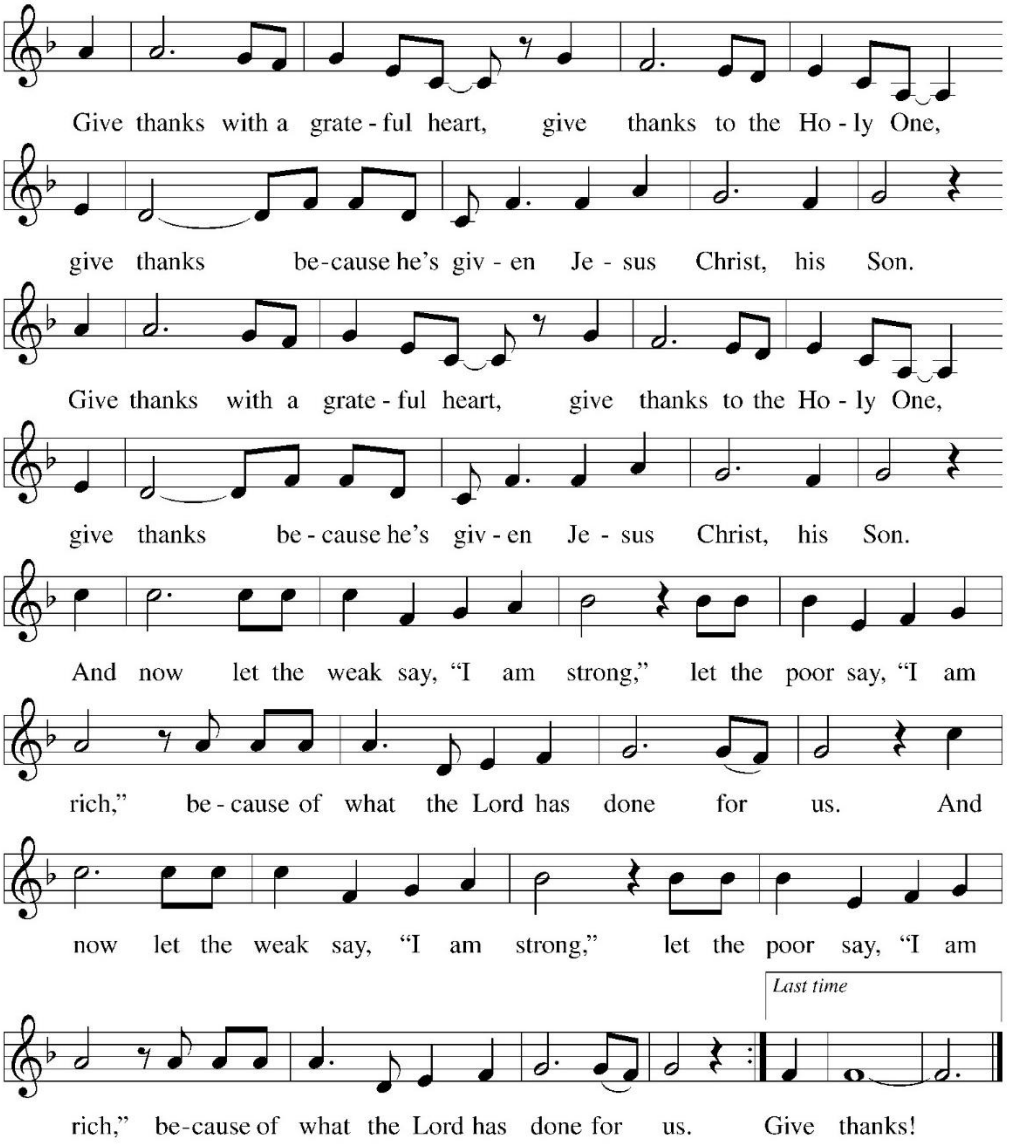
Please arise in body or spirit.

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 ***Give Thanks*** **W&P 41**



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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**
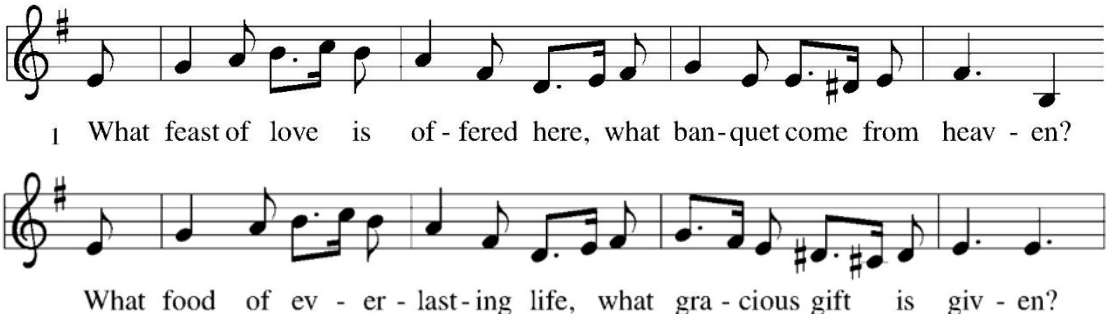
P Lift up your hearts.

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: **WOV 701, vs. 1**



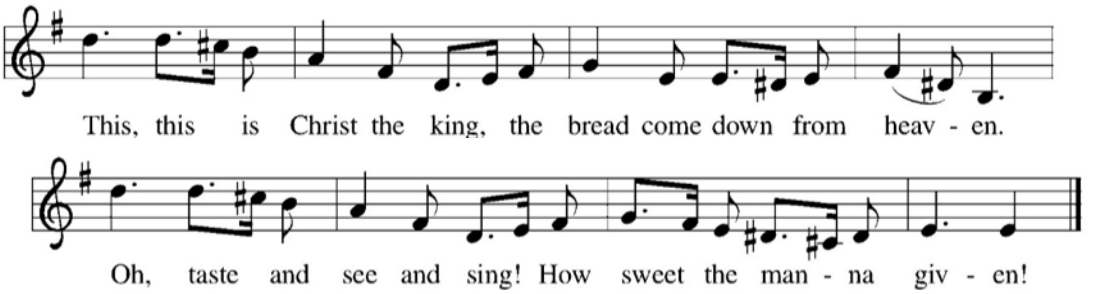


Table Prayer

℗ 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.**
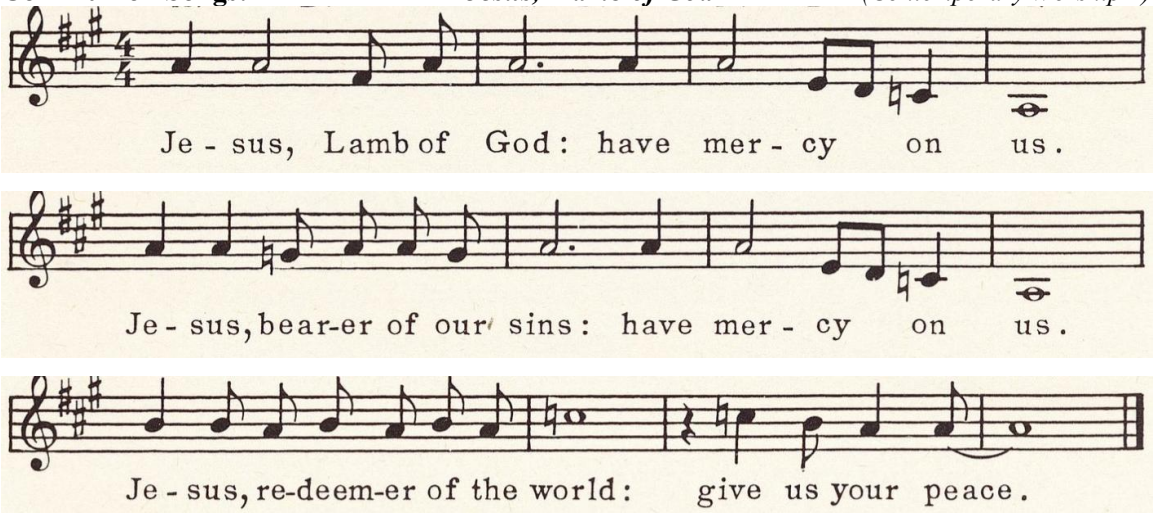
Invitation to Communion

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

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



Come to the Table	**ELW 481**
Here is Bread	**ELW 483**

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

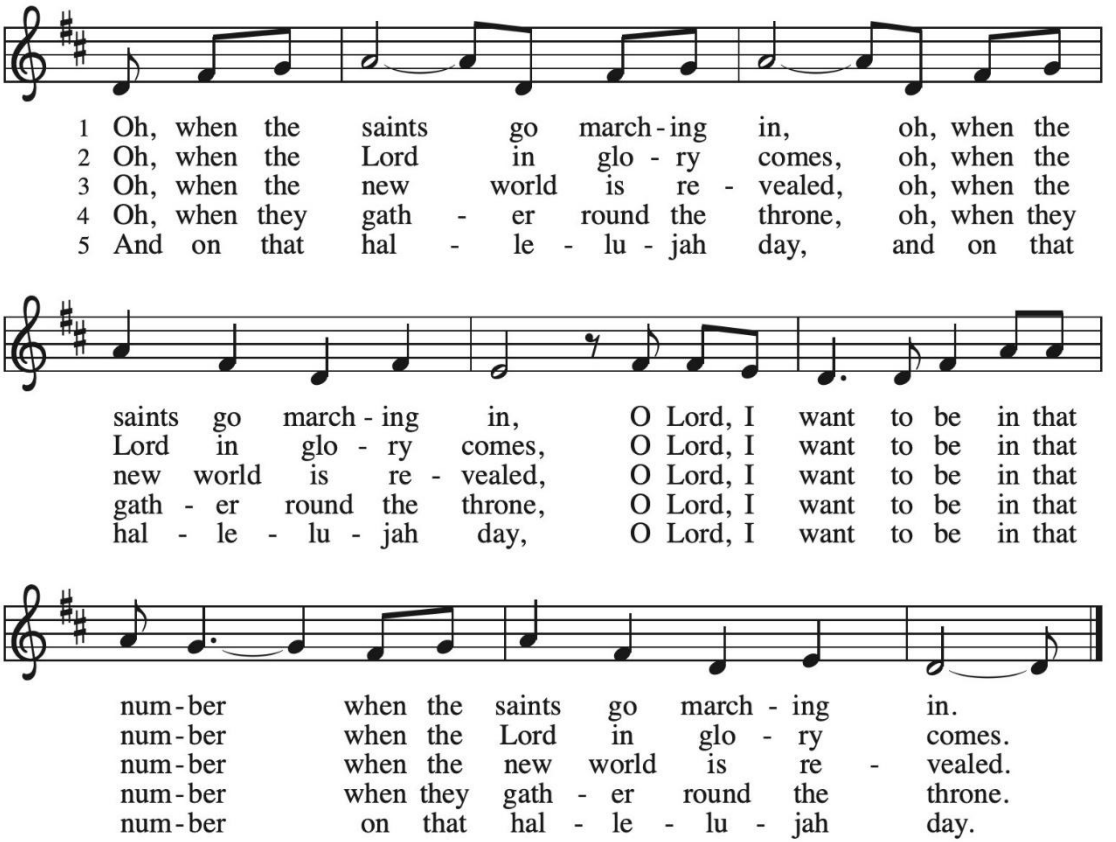
Arise in body or spirit

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 ***Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In*** **ACS 950**



Sending

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

<u>9:30 am</u>

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
Lector – Amy Poholski
Musicians – Carla Wilson-Neil and Kristi Winick
Cup Bearer - Phil Poholski
Usher – Doug Neeb
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship Hour – Jeanette Markwart

The Baptism of Lincoln Theodore Poholski

We celebrate with parents Emma and Luke Poholski the baptism of their son. Sponsors for Lincoln are Kaylyn McLean and John Poholski. Please welcome Lincoln and share in a cake reception after worship to mark this rite and gift of love shared today.

Noisy Offering collected today will benefit Barry County Cares. If you have loose change, consider putting it in the bowl up front in the sanctuary. Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of every month.

The Challenge of Waiting

For many of us, waiting is not a pleasant experience. Whether our waiting is mundane, like waiting in a long line at the grocery store checkout counter, or profound, like waiting for a medical diagnosis or for a new stage of life to begin, we often feel anxious or uneasy, impatient or frustrated, longing for the wait to be over. Over the course of our lives, we get plenty of experience with waiting but might never learn to be patient, even amid the frustration.

As uncomfortable as waiting may be, it is a necessary aspect of the life of faith. We live in the days between Christ's coming at his birth and his return, that longed-for day of hope and promises fulfilled. Seasons of our liturgical life train us in the art of holy waiting. We wait during Advent for Christ's birth, longing for the joy of his arrival as a child in Bethlehem. We wait during Lent for the bright joy of resurrection, abstaining from "alleluias" and quieting ourselves with prayer and fasting. Just as the young women in today's parable had to continue their daily living until the bridegroom returned (all of them, even the wise ones, went to sleep that night!), in all seasons we go about our lives faithfully, even as we wait with eager longing.

Many generations after the telling of this parable, how are we living as people prepared for the coming of Christ? How are we opening our daily lives to the possibilities that Christ will come among us at any moment? We are invited to live with eager expectation, watchful for the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ, which meets us when we least expect it.

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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.

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

A Game Day is scheduled for Sunday, November 15 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 **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.)

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.

Outreach Committee meets tomorrow at 3:00 pm.

Bothers of Grace meet this Saturday 10:00 am.

Social Activity Event Join us for a Hastings High School Play "Little Women"- Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 PM. **Please purchase your tickets at hastings.ludus.com or Hastings Performance Art Center at the high School.** Dinner at Seasonal Grille after the play. Please sign up for dinner reservations and if you need a ride on the bulletin board. Contact Bill Freedlund for more information.

It's time for a new photo directory! Plans are made for a photographer to be at Grace after church on **November 22nd**. 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!

Women of Faith (WOF) meets on Tuesdays from 11am – noon. We are studying Spiritual Gifts. All women are welcome.

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.

Social Activity Event Join us for a Hastings High School Play "Little Women"- Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 PM. **Please purchase your tickets at hastings.ludus.com or Hastings Performance Art Center at the high School.** Dinner at Seasonal Grille after the play. Please sign up for dinner reservations and if you need a ride on the bulletin board. Contact Bill Freedlund for more information.

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)

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.

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

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

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 hear the call to always be prepared. We know that God gives us the ability to walk in many different situations and share love, kindness and grace in times of happiness, sadness, sorrow and celebration. Let us always be prepared.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 49 Views: 218
Weekly Giving 10/25: $2,595.00 Budget Amount**:** $4,363.00
Non-Budget (Grace Projects) 10/25: $250.00
Weekly Giving 11/1: $4,245.00
Non-Budget (Grace Projects) 11/1: $250.00
October Online Giving: $2,840.12

Offerings received to date through October 18	$ 49,111.17
Offerings received on October 25	+ $ 2,595.00
Offerings received on November 1	+ $ 4,245.00
Online Giving in October	+ $ 2,840.12
Year to date total offerings *(fiscal year)*	$ 58,791.29

Non-Budget (Grace Projects): 10/25: $250.00
Non-Budget (Grace Projects) : 11/1 : $250.00

Budget Focus Item

Snow Plow	$ 1,500.00	Office Supply	$5,400.00
Given toward line	-$ 1,500.00		- $1,500.00
Still needed to meet goal	$ 0.00		$3.900.00

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.

Thank you to all who helped with our Pasty Sale!