

**WELCOME TO GRACE:** We rejoice over your presence this day as we gather in the Name and in the worship of our Lord.

**Grace's Mission**

✝ Sharing God's Grace

✝ Living His Word

✝ Making Disciples

**Grace Lutheran Church** is one of more than six thousand congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

**We Believe** the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the sole source for all Christian teaching and practice. *II Timothy 3:16*

**We Believe** "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

**We Believe** "by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

**We Believe** our relationship with everyone is based upon Jesus' words: "Love one another as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

**Child Care** We care about your children. We encourage parents with small children to help them participate in our worship. We ask you to have your children go to the restroom and get a drink before the service, and refrain from leaving during worship, unless there is an emergency. We have available a cry room equipped with sound located at the back of the sanctuary. Children's bulletins with activities are available. A nursery is available for children age 3 and under. Ask an usher for directions.

**Hearing Impaired** For those who need assistance, please ask an usher for a wireless hearing aid. They are easy to use.

 **WORSHIP FOLDER**   
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 28, 2024**

**“EASTER PEOPLE PROCLAIM”**

**AS WE GATHER**

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God’s life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

[If your health limits you, please don’t feel required to stand during the worship service.]



*In the Name of the  
Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit*



**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

# ✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

## ENTRANCE HYMN

(please stand for last stanza)

LSB 905

“Come, Thou Almighty King”



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred  
4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy  
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -  
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,  
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.  
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

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## INVOCATION

**L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

- L** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
- C** **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**
- L** Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!
- C** **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**
- L** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C** **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**
- L** You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!
- C** **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**
- L** We prepare for our time of confession as we sing the confession hymn, “O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art.” As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

## CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

- L** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C** **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**
- L** God be gracious to us and strengthen our faith.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

## HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 595

*"O Blessed Spring"*



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us  
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain  
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to  
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take  
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

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## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

ACTS 8:26-40

*(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)*

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## PSALM 150 ANTIPHON V. 6

- L** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!
- L** Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;  
**C** **praise him in his mighty heavens!**
- L** Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
**C** **praise him according to his excellent greatness!**
- L** Praise him with trumpet sound;  
**C** **praise him with lute and harp!**
- L** Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
**C** **praise him with strings and pipe!**
- L** Praise him with sounding cymbals;  
**C** **praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**
- L** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!  
**C** **Praise the LORD!**
- A** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

## EPISTLE

## 1 JOHN 4:1-11

*(An exhortation to lives of Christian love.)*

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(please stand)*

## VERSE

*Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

**L** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**C** Alleluia. **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.**  
Alleluia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

*(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)*

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory be to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*(please be seated)*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON



# HYMN OF THE DAY

(please stand for last stanza)

LSB 633

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

**5** **Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath  
You lie;  
You have conquered in the  
fight,  
You have brought us life  
and light.**

**Alleluia!**

**6** **Now no more can death  
appall,  
Now no more the grave  
enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You  
shall rise.**

**Alleluia!**

**7** **Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set  
us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!**

**8** **Father, who the crown shall  
give,  
Savior, by whose death we  
live,  
Spirit, guide through all our  
days:  
Three in One, Your name  
we praise.**

**Alleluia!**

*(please be seated)*

**SERMON TEXT:**

*ACTS 8:26-40*

**SERMON TITLE:**

*“IT HAPPENS BY CHARIOTS”*

*(please stand)*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## **WE OFFER OUR FIRST FRUITS**

*(Financial support of Grace Lutheran Church is considered a privilege of membership. Although all offerings are welcome, we do not expect them from our visitors.)*

**VOLUNTARY**

**ORGAN**

*“Sonne der Gerechtigkeit”*

*(please stand)*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Each petition ends with,

- L** Let us pray to the Lord,  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

- L** The Lord bless us and keep us.  
The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.  
The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*  
**C** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 691

*“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”*



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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## POSTLUDE

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 *To God Alone Be the Glory*   
**THOSE WHO SERVE**

Presiding Elders ..... Jim DeBerry, Will Krueger, Tim Benton  
 Organist..... Virginia DeBerry  
 Acolyte..... Adalynn Hayden  
 Elders ..... Steve DeShaw / Josh Jones  
 Ushers ..... Mac Hall  
 ..... Todd Byars  
 ..... Pete Lufholm  
 Altar Guild ..... Cindy Hilton / Carol Massie  
 Teller..... Mark Roush  
 Nursery ..... Chad & Lisa Dalager

**GRACE PRAYS**

*We continue to pray for the following:*

- Protection for our armed forces and strength for their families and Lt. Aaron Bell and his family.
- Wisdom for our nation’s leaders.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Pastor Pase.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Ms. Carol.
- Strength and commitment in tending our baptismal journey.
- Our Stephen Ministers.
- Our ECP.

**ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS**

❖ Jim Hill & Melinda Richmond.

**ILL OR RECOVERING**

- ❖ Diane Richey (Carol Massie’s sister) Meds are working and all tumors have shrunk. Her wrist is healing well with exercises continuing.
- ❖ Walther Marcis (Pastor’s father-in-law) is still waiting on a few more appointments to determine if he is a candidate for the TAVR procedure.
- ❖ Linda (sister of Rhonda Shutts) lymph node biopsy was negative. She has started chemo & radiation.
- ❖ Charles Hall, (former JP in Midland & friend of Todd & Vicki Byars.) his heart procedure was done on 4/19 with 2 stents inserted.
- ❖ Mary Ann Johnson is in Hospice Care as of 4/4.

- ❖ Jeff Turner saw his neurologist on 4/17. Doctors are fairly certain it's not ALS, but possibly an autoimmune disease with similar symptoms. Next appt. is 5/2 for more tests & study.
- ❖ Andy Zinkgraf (Dean at MCA) had a heart attack on 4/18. 2 stents were replaced.
- ❖ Royce Parsley (Gary's dad) is in the hospital with an infection and possible mild heart attack. Running tests, with possible procedure on 4/24 to clean out stent.
- ❖ Harper from Cisco. Has bone flexs on both knees from torn ligaments or damaged femur. Waiting on MRIs and surgeon referral.

### **PRAYERS OF MOURNING**

- ❖ Michele Hayden's homeroom student's dad was killed in a motorcycle accident over the weekend of 4/13.
- ❖ Mary Groshans (Dylan Caylor's grandmother) died on 4/19.



The flowers this morning have been provided to the glory of God by

**Anonymous**

### ***Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS***

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### ***Our Ministry Staff***

Reverend Robert Pase, Pastor .....	425-9531
Carol Massie, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Life.....	638-4153
Mrs. Amy Hoppman, Early Childhood Director.....	894-7027
Ms. Victoria J. Crawson, Church Office Administrator .....	626-484-9723
Lea Keesee, Parish Nurse.....	634-2580

**Please see Grace in Action for the week's calendar and other important information regarding the ministry of our congregation!**