

# Grace Lutheran Church

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## That's No Bunk!

Too often the arrival of the gospel's joyful surprise gets redelivered as some kind of grim omen handing out a multiple choice test asking you to choose the right way to belong, to be saved, to be righteous:

- a. Be good enough
- b. Know enough
- c. Believe enough
- d. All of the above and endless other "enoughs"
- e. None of the above

Enough already! A nontechnical, not particularly theological, but remarkably apt reaction is "that's bunk," which is similar to "that's a bunch of hooey," which translates to "that's not right," which leads back to the un-gospel quiz where the correct answer is "e."

On a cold winter day a restless crowd gathered around Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem. The contentious bunch was on pins and needles; hot tensions steamed the chilly holy city air. "We want a simple, unambiguous, no complications answer! Are you the Messiah?" Test time. What right answer could Jesus offer the testy inquisitors?

He replied: Clearly all that I have said about who I am has not convinced you. So listen, yes, listen, but all the more *look* and see the way I am revealed by moments of mercy, spectacles of forgiveness, and choices of compassion. Watch my way with the shamed and my scandalous behavior toward the untouchables. Then hear my voice. Dare to be like sheep who, stumbling and limping and tripping and meandering all the way, do take the risk. Hazard to believe that in me there is life to be had, a life that will not come to an end and that no one can take away.

Discovering the Messiah may not always be plain. It can be ambiguous and hard to understand, but always, always it will be gracious and life-giving. That's the joyful gospel. And that's no bunk!

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# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2016

*We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. It's because of his death and resurrection that we are assured of forgiveness from our sins, and everlasting life with God. The liturgical colors are white, a color of triumph and glory, and gold, a color of joy.*

***Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.***

## Pre-service Music

### Welcome/Worship Instructions

#### Temple Talk

*Stand as you are able.*

### Gathering Music

*All Are Welcome*

*vs 1-3*

**ELW 641** (red book)

### Greeting

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

### Hymn of Praise

*Now the Feast and Celebration*



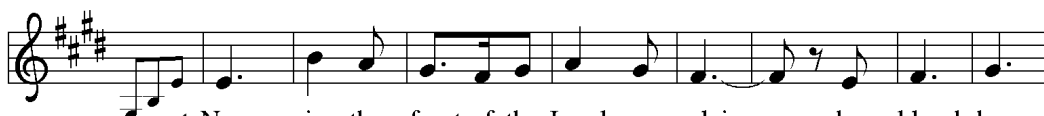
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;




praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

*Refrain*



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and


*Refrain*



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

*Refrain*



God; to make all things new.

### Prayer of the Day

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing.

Ⓒ **Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

### First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

Ⓔ A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts

of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm: 148**



The splen-dor of the LORD is o - ver earth and heav'n.



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

<sup>3</sup>**Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;**  
**sing praise, all you | shining stars.**

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. **R**

<sup>7</sup>**Praise the LORD | from the earth,**  
**you sea monsters | and all deeps;**

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,  
 fruit trees | and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>wild beasts | and all cattle,  
 creeping things and | flying birds;  
<sup>11</sup>**sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers | of the world;**  
<sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,  
 old and | young together. R**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
**whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.**  
<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,  
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah! **R**

## Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

**L** A reading from **Revelation:**

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, - Lord to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life: Al - le - lu - ia!

### Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

**P** The Gospel according to **John**.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### Children's Message

*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.*

### Children's Church (10:45 only)

*Children ages 0 to 5th grade are invited to follow our volunteers to the Elementary Classroom for a brief lesson. Parents of children 3 and under should accompany their child. The children will rejoin worship during the passing of the peace.*

### Message

*Stand as you are able.*

**Song of the Day**

***We Are Called***

**ELW 720** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as you are able.*

## The Prayers

### *Prayer Response*

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from  
death in - to life.

**A** Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Holy God, by your Holy Spirit reveal to us the saving work of Christ. Strengthen your church with the good news that leads to limitless life for all. Honor the obedience of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea, Messiah Lutheran Church in Roscommon, St Andrew & Matthias Anglican Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).

**A** Send us to places far and near, and join our voices in chorus with all creation. Use us to show others your abundant goodness in the created world. Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).

**A** End war and the human desire to hold on to power. Free all people to love both neighbor and enemy, and make your church an example of such love. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright and Tim Krewson. Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).

**A** Surround people who are hurting with agents of your healing and messengers of your peace. Provide safe communities for all who are in any need. We pray especially for Al Miller, Zeus Duites, Shawn Nunnink, Joe Rathbauer, Cynthia Hansen, Irene Loughlin, Etheyl Simon, Gale Morway and Matthew Noss. Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).

**A** Strengthen the bonds of shared service between congregations and social ministry. Guide us in doing your work together. Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).

**A** Gracious God, hear the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).

**A** In Christ's death and resurrection you have fulfilled your work for the sake of your saints. Come swiftly to dwell among us and to make all things new. Lead us, O God,

**C** (prayer response).



☐ We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord.

☑ Amen.

*Stand as you are able.*

### Sharing the Peace

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ And also with you.

*(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)*

*Sit*

### Offering of Gifts & Music

*Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.*

*Stand as you are able.*

### Offering Song

*As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465 (red book)

### Offertory Prayer

☐ Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

☑ Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Great Thanksgiving

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 God thanks and praise." The first staff shows the Presider's part for the first line and the Congregation's part for the second line. The second staff shows the Presider's part for the third line and the Congregation's part for the fourth line. The third staff shows the Congregation's part for the fifth line.

☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and earth and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and joint their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

☞ You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God, creator of heaven and earth; everything, everywhere is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for the promise you gave to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, that through their descendants you would bless the whole family on earth. We give thanks for the steadfast love you showed to their offspring: You delivered them from Egypt, bound yourself to them in covenant, sent them liberators and prophets, brought them home from exile.

When the time had fully come, you kept your promise by sending Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice and peace. He was obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

We remember how on the night of his betrayal 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. 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.

Remembering his command that we love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

*Congregation:*

A - men, Come, Lord Je - sus; A -

men, Come, Lord Je - sus.

☐ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

*Congregation:*

A - men. Come, Ho - ly

Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ Gather our prayers with those of the apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all the faithful who have gone before us, and unite them with the unceasing prayer of the One who lives in us and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

*Congregation:*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the

u-ni-ty of the Spir - it all glo - ry and hon - or is

yours, O God, now and for - ev - er,



### Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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

☞ The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

*Sit*

#### *Communion at Grace*

*All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.*

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

*Lamb of God*

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

**Additional Verses:**

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:**

**You are the way of justice and peace:**

**You are the way of mercy and love:**

**You are the bread of life for us all:**

**You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

*Final time:*

Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*I Come with Joy*

**ELW 482 (red book)**

*Thine the Amen*

**ELW 826**

*Stand as you are able.*

## Prayer after Communion

**A** Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal.

**G** Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Sit*

## Announcements

*Stand as you are able*

## Blessing

**P** The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of † Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

**G** Amen.

*All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.*

**Sending Hymn**

*All Are Welcome*

**ELW 641** (red book)

*vs 4-5*

## Sending

**A** Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**G** Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

*We depart for study, service and fellowship.*

*If you forgot to place your Participation Card in the offering plate, you can still drop it off in the basket outside the sanctuary.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Grace's updated website is now live!** check out the new website at [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)  
Suggestions, ideas and feedback should be provided to Pastor Paul at 269-945-9414 or Kate Watson 269-205-2462.

**Grace is decluttering** and letting go of two of our four pianos. If you are interested in one or both, please contact Kate Watson at 269-205-2462. Otherwise we will be selling them.

**On May 13-14**, the City of Hastings will be holding its annual Community-Wide Garage Sale. With the de-cluttering taking place throughout April at Grace, we have gathered all kinds of valuable things we would like to offer during the community sale, to be held in our parking lot. The money gathered at this event will go towards the purchase of new carpet and flooring for the church. If you have things you would like to donate to the church for the garage sale, we would appreciate them immensely! See the back of the participation card for more volunteer opportunities during the Garage Sale at Grace.

**Welcome Brunch for new members** - Plans are underway for a welcome brunch to be held at Grace for our new members. The date has been set for Sunday, May 15th (Pentecost). The brunch will be between the 2 services. Please check the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

**Fellowship Hall/Kitchen** – there are multiple bowls and containers on a table outside the kitchen. Stop back and take a look and claim what is yours. Anything left will be placed into the garage sale in May.

**Office calendar** – it is the responsibility of each group to ensure that their events, meetings, etc are on the calendar on the office door prior to publication of the paper calendar at the end of the month.

## Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Steve Kaiser	Connor Wales
<b>Cantor</b>	Choir	Choir
<b>Lector</b>	Carl Schoessel	Carol Morgan
<b>Communion Server</b>	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Katie Pohl	Jack Barnaart
<b>Ushers</b>	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen
	Dave Neeb, Mark Anton	Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Mark/Jana Bishop	Kay Howell
<b>Nursery</b>	Dan/Melissa Patton	<b><i>Children's Church</i></b>
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Diana Brown	Jeannette Ulrich

## Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 1, 2016

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Lorie Gladyness	Phil Poholski
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	Lorie Gladyness	Sandy Mosteller
<b>Communion Server</b>	Melissa Patton	Diane Neeb
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Grayson Patton	Hope Peck
<b>Ushers</b>	Karen Hastead	Doug/Diane Neeb
	Jan Schreiner	Dave Neeb
	Dan/Melissa Patton	Ed Domke
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Jack/Carol Vos	Bill/Lorraine Freedlund
<b>Nursery</b>	Cheryl Drumm	Children's Church
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

<b>Today, April 24</b>	Children's Church 10:45 am
<b>Monday, April 25</b>	Congregational Care 6:30 pm
<b>Wednesday, April 27</b>	Word Watchers 10:00 am
	Prayer Group 6:00 pm
<b>Thursday, April 28</b>	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm
	Grace Notes 5:45 pm
	Choir 7:15 pm