

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St

Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414

(269) 945-2645

Fax: (269) 945-2698

Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

E-mail: gracehastingspastor@gmail.com

The Wonders of Resurrection

The disciples who walked with Jesus have shared many amazing experiences in the company of the Lord. However, on the first Easter, these same disciples have gathered to share their confusion and uncertainty about the future. They are not yet convinced that Jesus is alive. They seem unaware of their destiny as apostles, preachers, and evangelists. They haven't yet seen the wonders of the resurrection.

Jesus makes sure that his disciples discover for themselves what God has done in him. He comes into the room where they are gathered, just as he comes among us as we gather in his name. He gives the disciples signs of peace, just as he inspires the church today to share in the peace that this world cannot give. He breathes holiness and power into their spirits, just as the same Holy Spirit works in and through the ministries entrusted to Christians all over the world.

Thomas is not with the other disciples when Jesus first appears to them, but Jesus will not allow Thomas to be left out of the circle of faith that keeps growing because of the wonders of the resurrection. This circle is meant to grow and expand across the cultures and nations of the world. This new faith will bring hope and salvation to people of every generation. As Jesus returns and allows Thomas to touch his scars, he identifies with wounded and broken people everywhere. The wonders of Easter are meant to bring salvation and healing to all who seek the presence of the Lord.

Blessed are we as God sends us into the world to overcome the barriers of fear and doubt.
Blessed are all whom God sends to announce the peace of Christ in word and in deed.
Blessed are we as we help this world to see the wonders of the resurrection.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23413.

BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2017

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

Tim Schoessel

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344 (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

ELW 167 (red book)

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray . . . Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt,

☑ **may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 2:14a,22-32

After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

☐ A reading from **Acts:**

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

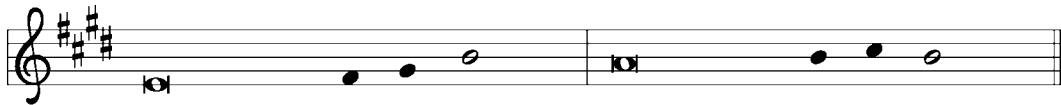
☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16



In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.



¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

³But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips.** ☑

⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.** ☑

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the | path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore. ☑

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.

A A reading from **1 Peter**:

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

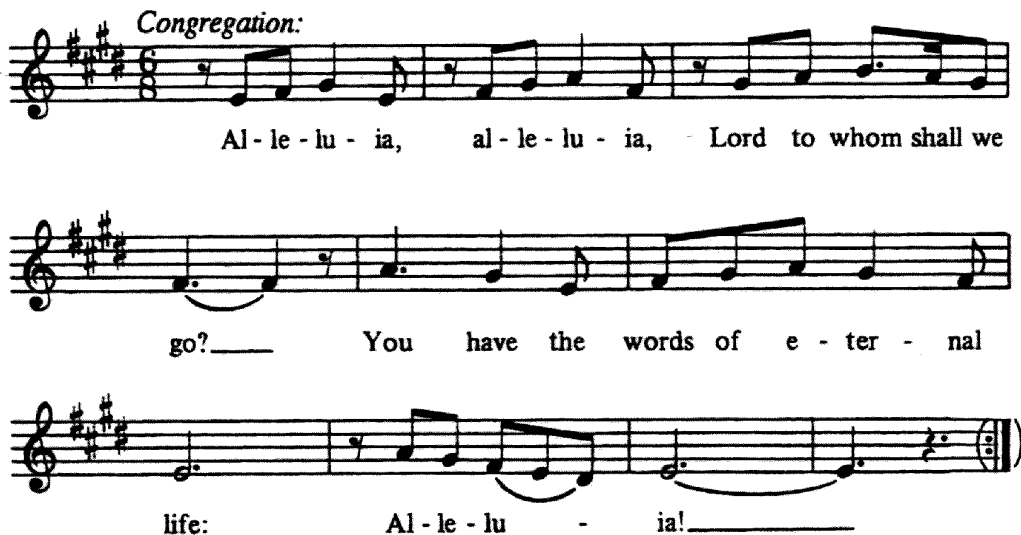
L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

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 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Message/Children’s Church

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.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

***O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing**
vs 1, 4-7*

ELW 386 (red book)

Nicene Creed

A We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church. Breathe your Spirit into us. Renew us with your power. Unite us in mission and send us into the world with your love. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Zion Lutheran Church in Freeland, Hastings Free Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul*. Hear us, O God.

C (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

A For the earth. For fields and forests, gardens and vineyards, and all newly planted crops. Sustain our world with clean water and favorable weather. Hear us, O God.

C (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

A For the nations. Empower leaders to work for the well-being of all. Send peace into every place where people live in the shadow of violence and displacement. Free all who are isolated behind walls of fear. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Hear us, O God.

C (*sung*) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

A For those in need. Look with compassion toward those who bear hidden wounds. Draw near to those who seek you. Comfort the dying, console the grieving, and heal the sick. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Sharon Duits, Doug Haddox, Kris Gilbert, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow and Barbara Macaully*. Hear us, O God.

C (sung) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

A For this assembly. Give us courage to welcome newcomers graciously. Walk with those who are inquiring, those who harbor doubts and questions, and those who are absent from us. *Bring your Spirit to the work of our Transition Team.* Hear us, O God.

C (sung) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Hear us, O God.

C (sung) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

A With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. Inspire us by their witness. Bring us with them to the heavenly feast. Hear us, O God.

C (sung) **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

P Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

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

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: 'As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from'.



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, oh 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, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join 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, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

☞ **We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.**

☞ 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☞ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these

your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

☩ To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

☩ 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

☩ Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

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.

Sit

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.

We Are An Offering

Now We Join in Celebration

Bread of Life from Heaven

Stand as you are able.

ELW 692 (red book)

ELW 462

ELW 474

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
- G** **Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

- P** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- 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 Song

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW 535 (red book)

Dismissal

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- G** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- A** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 161

Weekly Giving: \$5,478.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of hamburger/tuna helper, cereal, canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc).

Check it out! The Transition Team has put up a church timeline on the wall in the North hallway. Be sure to take a look at it. You can also add to the timeline. Add other significant church events you remember and/or personal events that have impacted your life. Markers are available. When it

is complete, it will represent a positive history of Grace and its members for the new pastor.

Next Sunday, April 30 is a fifth Sunday. That means we only have one service at 10:00 am, with Adult Forum at 8:45 am. The next 5th Sunday isn't until July.

Thank you to everyone who made last Sunday's Easter Brunch a wonderful event.

Wednesday Prayer Group has been on the fritz for a number of weeks. Pastor Paul will begin meeting again regularly in the sanctuary for prayer, every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. This event is open to all members and is a great opportunity to focus our prayer on the calling of a new pastor.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	Carol Vos	Carla Neil
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Dan & Grayson Patton	Ed Domke, Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Ingrid Morgan, Carla Neil
Chancel Team	Jeanette Ulrich, Lisa Golnek	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, April 30, 2017 – 10:00 am

Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood
Cantor	Vickey Argo
Lector	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner
Acolyte/Crucifer	Hope Peck
Usher	Mark Anton/Volunteers
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church	No Children's Church
Chancel Team	Jeanette Ulrich, Lisa Golnek

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, April 23

Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am

Adult Forum 9:30 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Transition Team 12:00 noon

Monday, April 24

LACS Rehearsal 6:30-9:00 pm

Wednesday, April 26

Prayer Group 6:00 pm

Thursday, April 27

Clapper Kids 3:45-5:00 pm

Grace Notes 5:45-7:00 pm

Sunday, April 30

Worship 10:00 am only

Adult Forum 8:45 am