

Grace Lutheran Church

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Table Grace

At every meal, they held hands and prayed, “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed.” Fifty years of marriage, three children, and five grandchildren meant many meals were served and eaten around their table.

The gifts and blessings at each meal were certainly the peas and carrots, chicken and rice, or even peanut butter and jelly, but they were also the tiny hands grasping peas from the high chair tray; the small hands with dirt under the fingernails from the playground. The gifts and blessings at each meal were hands that grasped handlebars, a softball bat, or a steering wheel. They were hands that wore an engagement ring, were tired from a day’s work, were wrinkled with age, or ached from arthritis. They were hands that had done both good and ill, but were still welcome at the table.

The gifts and blessings at their table were the hands of family and friends, but also of people from across the country and even across the sea. On their travels together they ate at many tables, each with the blessings of food and the gifts of people whose hands were of all different shades and shapes.

And then her hands became thin and her skin like paper from the chemo, yet they carefully held the blessings of bread and wine the pastor brought to the kitchen table. The hospice chaplain brought the gift of a hand-knit prayer shawl and laid its softness in her hands. “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed,” she responded automatically.

Many hands received the gift and blessing of Jesus’ presence in the bread and wine at the communion table the day of her funeral celebrating new life. “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.” Grace our tables with your presence.

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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.

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 30, 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

Stewardship Temple Talk

Tim Schoessel

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

Gather Us In

ELW 532 (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 . . . O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread.

☑ Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

☐ A reading from Acts:

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

A A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L The word of the Lord.

G 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

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

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. Remove all that hinders us from sharing your love. Raise up faithful preachers and teachers to lead your people. Heal our divisions. Unite us at your table. 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, Edgewood Lutheran Church in Fruitport, Hastings Seventh Day Adventist 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. Protect animals whose environments are endangered. Bring bountiful sunshine and sufficient rainfall for fields, pastures, and orchards. Bless those whose labors bring food to our tables. Hear us, O God.

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

A For the nations. Give all leaders wisdom and courage to work for the common good. Strengthen disaster relief workers, peacemakers, and all whose contributions to society go unnoticed. 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. Draw near to those who have lost hope. Provide food for the hungry and

shelter for those who need safe housing. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Sharon Duits, Steve Kaiser and Kris Gilbert*. Hear us, O God.

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

A For this assembly. Empower our ministries of outreach and hospitality. Strengthen the newly baptized and those who mentor them. Bless those who set the table for the holy meal. *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. Bring us with them to the fullness of your glory with all your saints. 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

Amazing Grace

Paul Pruitt, clarinet

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)



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

P 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.

G **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.**

P 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.

G **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

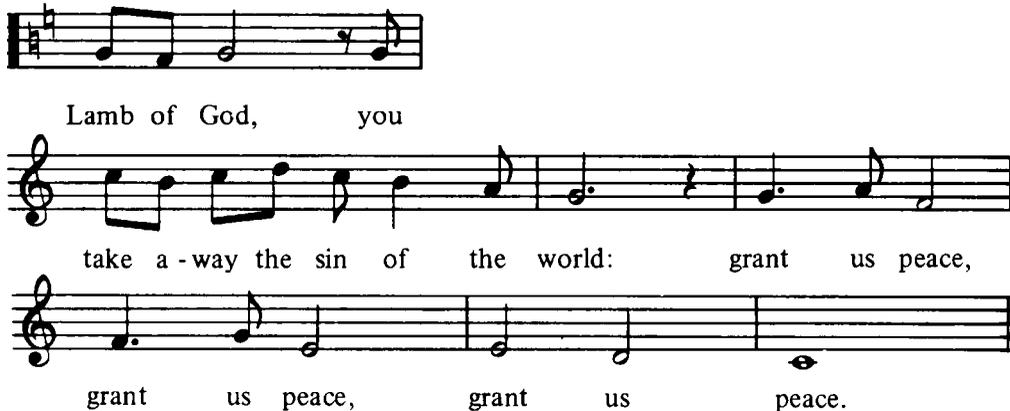


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
mer-cy on us.

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.

- Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*
- Bread of Life from Heaven*
- Father, We Thank You*

- ELW 464** (red book)
- ELW 474**
- ELW 478**

Stand as you are able.

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.

C 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.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

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.

C 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

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389 (red book)

Dismissal

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Puppet Play – “1, 3, 4,7, 10 – What Does This Mean”

Cast:

“Pearl” – Lexie Watson

“Bobbie Joe (BJ)” – Clyde Watson Jr

“Martin Luther” – Gavin Patton

“Jesus” – Grayson Patton

Stage Assistant – Molly Patton

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 91

Weekly Giving: \$1,913.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of saltine crackers, flour and instant mashed potatoes.

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.

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.

Family Promise will visit us today to receive a major gift approved by the Endowment Committee and the church council. This gift, we hope, will go a long way to help get this ministry in motion. Stephen Larghi will represent Family Promise to receive our gift from Pastor Mike Kemper, Chairperson of the Community Outreach Committee of Grace.

Transition Team is nearing the end of their project assignment, completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)! Pray for them that they may finish their work in a timely fashion and that the MSP reflects the needs and mission of our church.

Executive Board meeting has moved to Thursday, May 4 at 5:30 pm

Today's Worship Leaders 10:00 am only

8:00 am 10:45 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	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 7, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Clyde Watson
Usher	Kay Marsh, John Burdick	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen
		Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
Children's Church	n/a	Doug/Diane Neeb
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, April 30	Worship 10:00 am Adult Forum 8:45 am Transition Team 12:00 noon
Monday, May 1	Communication team 10:00 am Mutual Ministry Planning 6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 2	Worship Committee 6:30 pm
Wednesday, May 3	Prayer Group 6:00 pm Nominating Committee 6:00 pm
Thursday, May 4	Clapper Kids 3:45-5:00 pm Grace Notes 5:45-7:00 pm Executive Board 5:30 pm