

Grace Lutheran Church

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Growing Fruit

What is your strategy for living a fruitful life? Keep busy! Stay active! Make a to-do list! Watch another TED talk! Read another book! Get to the gym, to the store, to the school to pick up the kids! Take a multivitamin! Buy the latest gadgets and download the latest apps! All this will surely keep you on track so that you will bear fruit in your life.

Do these strategies line up with God's desire for us? Today Jesus sums up God's strategy for our fruit-bearing in one word: *abide*. Jesus uses this word eight times (perhaps once for each day of the week plus one for good measure?). Maybe he knows how difficult it is for some of his followers to *be* instead of *do*.

Jesus says the way of fruitfulness is for branches (us) to abide in the vine (him). This way seems to contradict our preferred strategies for growth. Rather than depending on constant movement, this fruitfulness is the result of being planted in God. Rather than living our lives behind isolating screens and walls, abundant growth is born out of connectedness with God and others. Fruit comes from dwelling, not doing. This fruit is the result of reliance and interdependence on the vine, not exhausting efforts at control over our own fruitfulness.

The fruit we produce is not the result of our doing but of God's doing in us. This is why we worship; to abide in God, to be replanted by the water of life, and to be repotted at a table that nourishes. Abiding in the vine with Christ's vitality flowing through us, our fruit grows.

Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

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

Stand as you are able

Easter Proclamation and Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

P Holy people of God, given new life through the gospel of Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Gathering Music

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 760 (red book)

Responsive Litany of Easter Praise

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A This is the day that the Lord has made;

C **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

P The Lord is my strength and my song.

C **The Lord has become my salvation.**

A Open to me the gates of righteousness;

C **I will go through them and praise the Lord.**

P I shall not die, but live,

C **and declare the works of the Lord.**

A This is the day that the Lord has made;

C **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
 When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

☑ **Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall re -
 mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
 I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
 all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**
who rules o- | ver the nations. ☑

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
 saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!” ☑

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

A A reading from **1 John**:

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

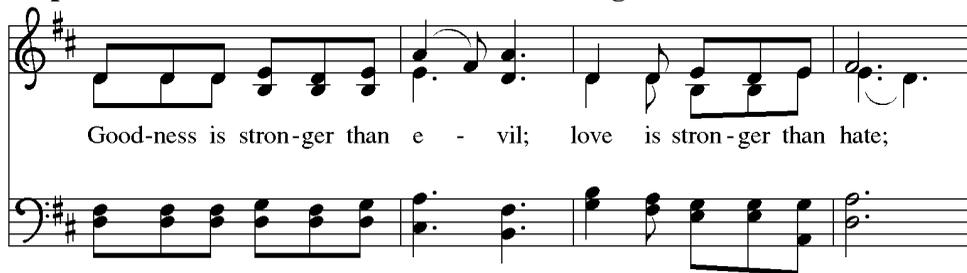
L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

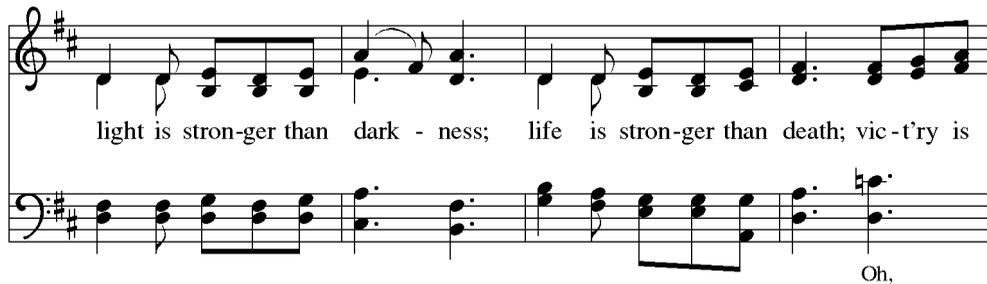
Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Goodness is Stronger than Evil



Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
Oh,



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
vic-t'ry is ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
vic-t'ry is ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

☞ The Resurrection 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

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 690 (red book)



Holy Baptism

Presentation

Candidate for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for the candidate, in turn, present the candidate:

☞ I present James Robert Converse for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents who bring for baptism their child who is not able to answer for himself:

☞ Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have James baptized into Christ?

☞ *I do.*

☞ As you bring James to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring James to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that James may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

☞ *I do.*

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

☞ Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

☞ *I do.*

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support James Converse and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

☞ **We do.**



Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses candidate for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly joins in the responses.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate and the assembly.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



Thanksgiving at the Font

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

☞ Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

The presiding minister baptizes the candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

☞ James Robert Converse, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

The presider and assembly proclaim together saying:

☞ **Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

The presiding minister continues:

☞ Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain James with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

☐ James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Welcome

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized as a representative of the congregation says:

☐ Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

☐ Let us welcome the newly baptized.

☑ **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☐ Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

☐ For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Petoskey, Church of Christ in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Lord, in your mercy,

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

☐ For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide. Lord, in your mercy,

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

☐ For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson, Alexi and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord, in your mercy,

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

☐ For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

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

Ⓐ For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, including **Zeus Duites, Wendy Eifler, John Glasgow, Lucy Gray, Tim Lowe, Mary Golnek, Caleb, Bill Haddix, Steve Kaiser, Rev. Dallas McFarland, Tal, Kim, Rory, Jamie, Brian and the family of Bruce Sheets.** Lord, in your mercy,

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

Ⓐ 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.

Ⓐ Lord, in your mercy,

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

Ⓐ In thanksgiving for all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

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

☞ We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **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 it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.



Stand as you are able.

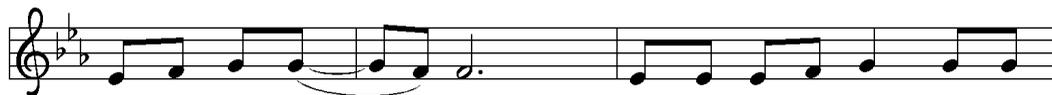
Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 185 (red book)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



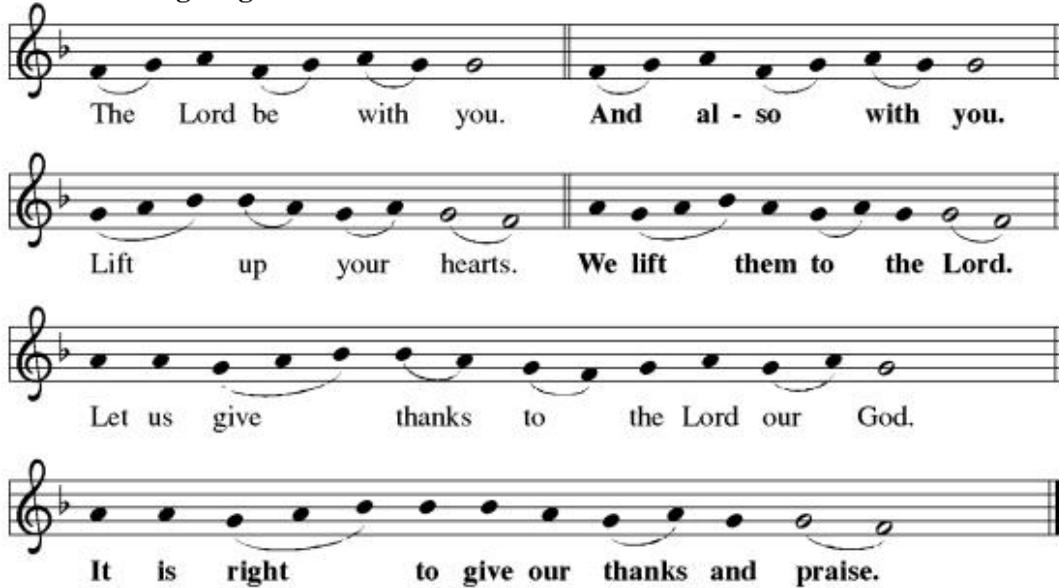
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

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.

G Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



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 our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

☐ Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

☑ **We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery.**

☐ We give you thanks for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer.

☑ **We praise you for Christ, who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.**

☐ 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.

☑ **Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.**

☐ Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

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

The usher(s) will release you from the pew. Both sides will process forward, forming two lines, to receive holy communion. Let the usher know if you would like to receive communion in the pew. Communion will be by intinction: you will receive a wafer, dip the wafer into the wine or grape juice chalice, then eat the wafer.

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.

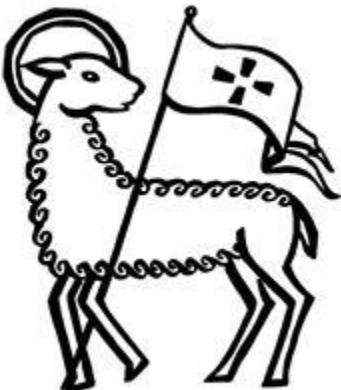
✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **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



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre - cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre - cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre - cious Lamb of God.

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479 (red book)

Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 474

Taste and See

ELW 493

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.**

Congregational Announcements and Election of Voting Members for Synod Assembly

Blessing

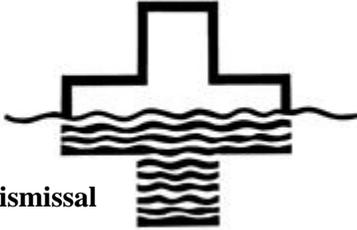
- P** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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

We Are All One in Mission

WOV 755 (blue book)



Dismissal

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

Post Service Music

Baptized in Christ today, James Robert Converse. We are blessed to have Nathan, Kazzie and James among us here at Grace Lutheran Church. James receives the sacrament of Holy Baptism as his baptismal sponsors, Zack and Jessica Green, make promises that they will help shape and guide James faith. Even though Zack cannot be here physically, we celebrate that he will contribute to James' faith journey. Today, as the people of God, we make promises to help James, Kazzie and Nathan to be supportive of their faith journey and walk with them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Election of voting members to Synod Assembly needed. Even though we elected voting members to attend the Synod Assembly, they are unable to go this year. Derrick and Jenn Rosenberger have said that they are willing to go. Since these voting members were elected by the congregation, we need to vote today to send instead Jenn and Derrick Rosenberger. We will call a special congregational vote during the announcements. Thank you for taking the time to vote for our Synod Assembly voting members, so we can be part of the larger church's purpose and mission.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 104 Weekly Giving: **\$4,815.00** Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of chicken or beef based soups, chowders, cream soups (NOT cream of mushroom, tomato or chicken noodle); Spam, corned beef hash, Pasta or Rice A Roni (not chicken or beef flavored), sugar, brownie mix, cereal, mashed potatoes, coffee – instant or ground (smaller cans are best), baked beans, refried beans and mixed vegetables.

ELCA Military Personnel Prayer Book - Stop by the display table in the coffee fellowship area to learn how you can send a Lutheran Military Prayer Book to someone serving in the armed forces and/or write a note of support and gratitude to be included in one of the prayer books we will be sending out. Suggested donation for each prayer book is \$8-10 to cover purchase and mailing costs. If you'd like to bake some cookies for service personnel there is a place to sign-up for that also. Thanks for your support. Grace Outreach Committee

Hastings Food Pantry - May 12th is the Stamp Out Hunger food drive. If you would like to participate, place a sealed, moisture proof bag of non-perishable groceries out by your mailbox on Saturday, May 12 and your postal carrier will pick it up and deliver it to the Hastings Food Pantry.

Family Promise – will be holding a Community Meeting at Green Street Church on Tuesday, **May 15** at 6:30 pm, to provide an update regarding their progress. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Vickey Argo.

Vacation Bible School - We have chosen the curriculum for our Vacation Bible School program this year. We are using Group's Shipwrecked. Through this program we will witness how we are rescued by Jesus. Grace Church is thankful to the generous spirit of a member who paid for the initial materials that were ordered. Our Vacation Bible School at Grace will be during the evenings of the **week of July 22, 2018**. Please pray for this ministry we share in Jesus' name with children, youth and adults as an outreach to our community. We hope that you are willing to help in making VBS a time of learning and growing in God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please talk to Pastor Ken.

Renovation Update The original debt amount for the purchase of new carpet was \$16,258.38. To date we have received \$7,775.00 in generous donations from our members. The remaining debt for the carpet is **\$8,483.38**. **We would be blessed if you would be willing to help pay down this debt we owe to ourselves.** Thanks for your consideration. If you would like to write a check, please remember to write 'carpet fund' in the memo line.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, April 29	Worship at 10:00 Adult Forum 8:45 am Hymn Sing 9:50 am Temple Talk
Tuesday, May 1	Executive 6:00 pm
Wednesday, May 2	Worship Committee 6:30 pm
Thursday, May 3	Clapper Kids 3:45 – 5:00 pm Grace Notes 5:45 – 7:00 pm
Friday, May 4	Rock Group

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Assisting Ministers		Traci Wales
Cantor		Mark Anton
Lector		Victoria Steadman
Communion Server		Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer		Hope Peck
Usher		Mark Anton, <i>Volunteers</i>
Greeter/Coffee Hr.		Eve Wright
Children's Church		Doug/Diane Neeb
Chancel Team	Jeanette Ulrich & Lisa Golnek	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 6, 2018

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carol Vos	Jeanette Markwart
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Joe Longcor, Sandy Mosteller Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Kristi Winick/Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Kim & Lydia Markwart
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead & Jan Schreiner	

