



Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Through the gospel, Jesus invites the disciples to touch and see. We are invited to give witness to Jesus' healing touch in our lives. Let us be empowered to share the good news that we have in Christ's presence among us.

Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Lord of the Dance
Simple Gifts Shaker Hymn

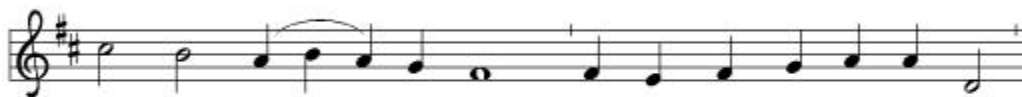
arr. Mark Hayes
Cindy Olson, piano

Easter Greeting

- ☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☞ **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
- ☞ 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.
- ☞ **And also with you.**



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



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



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.... Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children.

C Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

📖 A reading from Acts.

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

☒ = Refrain

The LORD does won - ders for the faith - ful.

Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed. ☒**

⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure. ☒**

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

📖 A reading from **1 John**.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be, has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

📖 The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

👏 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain
All

Re - joice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - joice and be glad!

Yours is the king - dom of God!

Apostles Creed

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

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.***

A Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence

A Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cheboygan; Prairieville Bible Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. . Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness, including *Jenna (sister of Sean Benedict), Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Cherie Clements, Emmett Crawford, Allison Domke (healthy pregnancy), Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Bill Halsted, Joe Longcor, Bill Melcher, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. (*You may share your prayers at this time*)

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

Red Sea Road

by Ellie Holcomb

Vocal Lexie & Kate Watson, Kim Domke, guitar



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.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
 ☑ **Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world, for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

- ☐ The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
 ☑ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

- ☐ May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
 ☑ **Amen.**

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 lieve in me, e - ven . . . though you
 Son of God, who have

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'All'. The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

Dismissal

- Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Bind Us Together

by Bob Gillman

We Are Fed

It appears the gospel writers knew that people would question whether Jesus was indeed fully human. Details such as how he wept at the death of his dear friend Lazarus, lost patience with those who had turned the temple into a marketplace, and was a bit annoyed with his mother when she asked him to help out at the wedding in Cana remind us that Jesus felt many of the things we feel ourselves.

Similarly, in case anyone wondered if Jesus had really risen from the dead, Luke tells us how, after Jesus appeared to his disciples, he asked for something to eat. This may seem like a small detail, but there's no doubt it is an important one. After all, only people who are living and breathing must eat; there is no getting around that physical need.

However, this detail does not remind us only that Jesus really was raised from the dead. It also brings to mind the many times Jesus gathered around a table with a great variety of people, feeding them in both body and soul. As we remember each of these interactions, we are reminded that even though we do not dine with Jesus in the flesh, today he is still at work to nurture us.

Jesus feeds us through his words of forgiveness, through the love of our family and friends, and through the blessing of community. Most notably, Jesus feeds us at the Lord's supper, where he invites all to taste and see God's goodness and grace. Through bread and wine we are fortified with Christ's body and blood to be witnesses to God's love out in the world as we go about our daily work, bless one another with our time and gifts, and serve our neighbors in need.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 18, 2021

Stewardship Information

Views: 272 Weekly Giving: \$1,230.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

COMMUNION OF TWO KINDS arrives for those who desire to come to the fellowship hall. Thanks to a donation of grape juice (wine was not available) Grace will be able to enjoy communion with bread and “wine”. Thanks to Joe Longcor and Vickey Argo for the donation. *Private Communion is available by appointment.* Please contact the church office **269.945.9414** or Pastor Ken directly for a time and day.

Piano & Heating

HAPPY EASTER! The Piano and Heating bills have been **PAID in full!** We are blessed with generous people of faith. *The excess that has been received will go toward another heating repair bill. Thank you for your overwhelming response.*

We need your plastic shopping bags! Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

Adult Forum will continue a study on the book of **Acts** today at 10:00 am. We will continue to meet in the Gathering Area for the study.

Read the New Testament in Chronological Order. Call the office to get your copy of the 2021 Daily Reading Guide.

When you are in the building, we ask you to wear a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we also ask that you maintain at least a 6-foot distance from those who are not part of your household. **Thank you for loving your neighbor.**

When do we get to return to public worship at the church building?

We will be gathering for worship when
the positivity rate is 3.0%.

Grace Lutheran Church has suspended onsite worship. Please join us for **Sunday virtual worship** at www.grace-hastings.org. We hope that you are being blessed by our worship of God each week. The council will vote at a future date to reimplement onsite worship.

The Rack

The Rack is a new community service for the Hastings area. The **free clothing** store is at the beginning of its operation. Items at this time are limited to winter outdoor wear partly because there is no director for this ministry. If you are at all interested in clothing ministry, please contact Pastor Ken.

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me."

Matthew 25:35 & 36

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Carol Vos

Cantor – Anna Scheck

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Mary Kuhlman, Carla Neil, Cindy Olson, Anna Scheck, Ethan Scheck, Ken Scheck, Laura Scheck, Kate Watson, Lexie Watson, Kristi Winnick

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Our Undeveloped Land

Council decided that, for now, we will maintain the property, cleaning it up twice a year, and work toward improving the path so that users can meander and meditate. Thank you to members of the Team for their work and dedication to Grace!



Is there a ministry you would like to see started at Grace Lutheran Church?

Here are some ideas that are being considered listed below. Maybe you could add a couple other ideas. Please share your ideas with a Council member or write them down and drop them off at the church office.

Host a community garden (we are talking with Emmanuel Episcopal about this already)	Build a picnic pavilion for outdoor gatherings and meals	Return to going on mission trips
Have the parking lot repaved and paid for	Hold quarterly dinners for the neighborhood	Enhance the lighting in the sanctuary
Reduce our carbon footprint by installing solar panels on our roof	Cultivate or hire a youth ministry leader (we've had success with this in the past)	Start a mentorship program between youth and older adults
Hold regular forums on diversity and inclusiveness	Collaborate with other Lutheran and non-Lutheran congregations in youth ministry	Rebuild / strengthen relationships within the congregation

North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly
May 14 & 15, 2021

Grace is looking for one youth and one male adult voting member to attend this virtual assembly. If interested, please contact Pastor Ken.

Food Pantry

The Hastings Food Pantry is seeing an increase in clientele. As many jobs have been lost because of the new restrictions but in place with COVID 19 the food pantry believes there will be another rise in traffic to the pantry. Needs are:

Prayer

Chunky & Progressive Soups

Saltine Crackers

Boxes or packets of Beef or Chicken Rice

Cakes and Frosting

Brownies

Cans of Pineapple



*Jesus invites us to
Touch and See!*