

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

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

Gathering Music (10:45 Service) *This Is My Father's World*

arr. W. Blee

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

- 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!**

Gathering Song

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

Easter Greeting

- P** Holy people of God, given new life through the resurrected Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

Refrain



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



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



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



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



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



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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



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



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray . . . O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing.
- G** **Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Special Music (10:45 Service)

Praises

Arr. B. Broder

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

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

L A reading from **Acts**:

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

L The word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**²Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

**⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**⁸fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**¹²young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

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

☐ A reading from **Revelation:**

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
 He will dwell with them;
 they will be his peoples,
 and God himself will be with them;
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
 Death will be no more;
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
 for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life: Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

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

▮ The Holy Gospel according to **John**.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

▮ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Song of the Day

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

ELW 377

Prayers

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

▮ Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence

▮ Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. Help our leaders of the church to follow this example including: *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Niles; Hope Church of the Brethren, Freeport; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☩ **You give us new life.**

▮ Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

☩ **You give us new life.**

A Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. Be with those who safeguard the world, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress, especially *Jenny Anderson, Amber Andrews, Veronica Baarson, Helen Brown, Wally Burzynski, Ron Bush, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Gene and Julie Fogarty and family, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, Larry Hansen, Judy Heil, Mike Hoppe, John Kleinbrink (heart), Mattea Markwart, Bill Melcher, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Annette Poholski, Phil Poholski (recovery), Ken Plourde, Mike Shoemaker, Susie Smith, George Ulrich Jr., Sharon Varkula, The family of Lois Von Seggern, and Carol Vos*. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ.

*(You may share your prayers at this time)
Here other intercessions may be offered*

A Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

P In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

G **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of risen Christ be with you.

G **And also with you.**

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

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, 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 our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

Table Prayer

- Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful 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.
- Ⓞ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**
- Ⓟ 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.**
- Ⓟ 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.**
- Ⓟ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Congregation:



- Ⓟ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- Ⓞ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.



☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

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

men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the

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

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

A - - - men.

Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

☑ **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

- ☐ Holy things for holy people.
- ☑ **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**
- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

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.

Communion Song:

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- ☞ **Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

- Ⓐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- Ⓐ The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of + Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.
- ☞ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Shout to the Lord

ELW 821

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.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Freedlund Family
Bells – Anita Shaw and Kim Domke

We Are Found

As Jesus in today's gospel prepares the disciples for his imminent departure, he tells them that they will look for him but won't be able to join him where he is going. It will not be long before the women are at the tomb in the early morning, only to find it empty.

We also look for Jesus, but perhaps we don't know that we are engaged in the search. We are constantly seeking purpose and answers, turning to self-help books, inspirational videos, exercise programs, and new ways of organizing our stuff. Billboards and magazine covers highlight our flaws while offering the next best solution to make us happy and well.

These opportunities can be compelling, and some of them will prove successful in managing some aspects of life. But these solutions don't turn up what we're really looking for: to be truly loved and known, secure and whole. We find this security only in the love of God. Yet, in this Easter season we are reminded that we do not need to seek Jesus; rather, Jesus seeks out and finds us. We cannot go where Jesus goes, leading the way through death to new life, but Jesus ultimately finds us wherever we are, even when we are most lost. The women found an empty tomb, but Jesus is not gone. The resurrected Jesus finds them!

In finding us, Jesus also directs our searching by giving us a commandment: "Love one another" (John 13:34). In seeking to love one another, we are reminded again and again that the great love of God has already found us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: Not Available

Views: 82

Weekly Giving: \$6770.00

Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

Replace, Repair, Renew \$4,998.09

Received -\$1,000.00

TOTAL still outstanding \$3,998.09

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who never leaves us without love. Let us share that love with one another.

Grace Lutheran Church is seeking a Nursery Attendant during the 10:45 worship service.

Called to the Church Triumphant Lois Von Seggern. Lois was called to be with our Lord on Thursday, April 21, 2022. Messages of sympathy and support can be sent to Jeff Von Seggern, 615 Town Center Drive, Apartment 9, Middleville, MI 49333. Lois's service will take place here at Grace on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

Life Together. Strengthening relationships within the Congregation. Join us next week at 9:30 am, as we continue our series of sharing life together. We will hear from immigrants (or their immediate family) among us. Today we hear from **Pauline Obasi** shares her journey "From Nigeria to the United States". Next week, the Wilson Sisters (Carla, Kristi and Traci) will be our featured speakers.

Grace Rummage Sale is a GO! If you do not have the ability to hang onto your items to be donated for the sale, you can start bringing them into church now, and put them in the last room on the right down the first hallway on the right from the main entry doors. Reminder: All items must be clean and in working condition. NO clothing. Do not put anything outside or in the Fellowship Hall. Due to a funeral, we cannot accept items directly into the Fellowship Hall until Wednesday at 9am to 3pm, and Thursday at 9am to 2pm. Donations cannot be accepted after 2pm, as we need time to set up the room for this event. **The sale will be on Friday & Saturday, May 20 & 21, 8am to 4pm.** Half of the net proceeds will be donated to Lutheran World Relief to benefit the people of Ukraine. Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216 with any questions.

Property Committee Meeting. A reminder that the Property Committee is having a meeting on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Phil Poholski at 269.908.03384.

Annual Church Cookout You are cordially invited to the Annual Church Cookout on June 12th after second service at The Poholski home. Please bring lawn chair and dish to pass. Address: 6810 Highlandview Dr., Middleville.

Committee, Officer, Staff and Pastor Reports are due to the office by June 1 for the Annual Meeting.

Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. As you may know we replaced our mower and chest freezer and repaired our heating system in the fellowship hall. Total cost for these items is listed below:

Mower \$3,900.00

Freezer \$620.09

Heating Repair \$638.00

Total: **\$5,158.09** We are seeking funds to pay ourselves back for these expenses.

Renew: \$4,841.91. When the \$5,158.09 is paid back, we will begin collecting for the renewal part of the campaign, as we were told the heating system is needing to be replaced in the fellowship hall. We thank you for your partnership in keeping our building a functioning ministry tool in the name of Jesus Christ.

Processional Cross. If you are interested in bearing the cross, please contact any Worship Committee member.

Community Garden. Grace is exploring the possibility of partnering with Emanuel Episcopal Church to create a community garden. The garden would be housed on our church property. If you are interested in working on this project please contact Randy Teegardin or Brenda, our parish administrator.