

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 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

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

- Ⓟ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- Ⓞ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- Ⓐ This is the day that the Lord has made;
- Ⓞ **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**
- Ⓟ The Lord is my strength and my song.
- Ⓞ **The Lord has become my salvation.**
- Ⓐ Open to me the gates of righteousness;
- Ⓞ **I will go through them and praise the Lord.**
- Ⓟ I shall not die, but live,
- Ⓞ **and declare the works of the Lord.**
- Ⓐ This is the day that the Lord has made;
- Ⓞ **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Gathering Song

Come, We that Love the Lord

ELW 625

Easter Greeting

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

Refrain

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

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



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

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life.
- Ⓒ **Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

Ⓖ A reading from **Acts**:

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Ⓖ The word of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

**²Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁶The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

☐ A reading from **Revelation:**

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

☐ 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 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

- The Holy Gospel according to **John**.
- Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

- The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Song of the Day

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447

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

- Ⓐ God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos; Hope United Methodist, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☞ **You give us new life.**

- Ⓐ Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. Hear us, O God.

☞ **You give us new life.**

- Ⓐ Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. 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.

☞ **You give us new life.**

- Ⓐ Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace 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, Carol Vos, and Jackie.* Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

☞ **You give us new life.**

- Ⓐ Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts.

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

- Ⓐ Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life.
- Ⓟ In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- ☞ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓟ The peace of risen Christ be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

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

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- ☞ **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 also 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.**

Ⓟ 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:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

- Ⓟ 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.

Congregation:



A - men, Come_ Lord Je - sus; A -



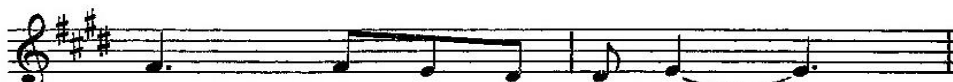
men, Come__ Lord Je - sus._____

- Ⓟ 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:

Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil

ELW 512

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

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

ELW 763

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 – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

Lifelong Learning

Graduates walk across the stage in cap and gown, receiving diplomas or degrees and pausing for pictures. The celebration marks the end of a time of learning and a transition to a time of doing. New jobs require orientation and more practical learning, but soon the employees are proficient at their work. The sheet metal apprentice becomes the expert journeyman. The accountant sees no more surprises in tax preparation. The retail worker masters the merchandise, the computer system, and dealing with difficult customers.

This movement from learning to knowing is not limited to work. We learn about civic issues and come to know where we stand. We learn about our faith and come to solid beliefs about our values. We learn about ourselves and who we are as people and settle into a sense of our own identity. One could call this process of learning and knowing through experience “lifelong learning.”

Jesus gives us an image of the Holy Spirit as teacher. But the Holy Spirit is not just any teacher; the Holy Spirit can teach us everything! The implication is that lifelong learning is less about information and more about what it means to be human, less about training and more about our relationship with God.

How do we experience the teaching of the Holy Spirit? Perhaps it is in the surprises of grace where someone’s generosity overwhelms us. Maybe it is in the nudges of knowing when an uncomfortable question opens up a place for us to reflect on our prejudices. Sometimes the font or table softens our heart in just the right moment to find a path for forgiveness.

With this promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus also leaves the gift of his peace, that in our learning and growing we may also know the peace that “surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 78	Views: 90
Weekly Giving: \$3,630.00	Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Replace, Repair, Renew \$3,998.09	Spring Flower Sale \$705.60
Received <u>-\$ 0.00</u>	
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 gives us TRUE peace.

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 **The Wilson Sisters** as they share “Ingrid’s WW2 Experience in German and Her Journey to America”. Next week, Carla Neil will be our featured speaker.

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.

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

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

Annual Church Cookout You are cordially invited to the Annual Church Cookout on June 12th after second service at The Poholski home. There is a sign-up sheet located in the gathering area. Please bring lawn chair and dish to pass. Rain or shine the cookout will take place. 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.

Fill A Bag For Summer. We are collected items for the Hastings Food Pantry and Barry County cares. Items can be dropped off between now and June 12 in the Gathering Area. Food items needed include soup, juice, canned vegetables, pasta, canned salmon, corned beef hash, no bean chili, mayonnaise, sugar, shortening, cake mix, and canned frosting. Non-food items include laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, liquid dishwashing soap and personnel hygiene items. Thanks for supporting this important project. Questions? Contact Kim Domke or call the church office.