

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

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.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

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!**

Gathering Song

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Easter Greeting

- 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.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

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. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray...Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt,
- Ⓑ may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16



Refrain



In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref-¹uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a-¹bove all other.”

**²All my delight is in the godly that are¹ in the land,
upon those who are noble a-¹mong the people.**

³But those who run after¹ other gods
shall have their troubles¹ multiplied.

**⁴I will not pour out drink offerings¹ to such gods,
never take their names up-¹ on my lips.** 

⁵O LORD, you are my portion¹ and my cup;
it is you who up-¹hold my lot.


**⁶My boundaries enclose a¹ pleasant land;
indeed, I have a¹ rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who¹ gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night¹ after night.

**⁸I have set the LORD al-¹ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall¹ not be shaken.** 

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir-¹it rejoices;
my body also shall¹ rest in hope.

**¹⁰For you will not abandon me¹ to the grave,
nor let your holy one¹ see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the¹ path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for-¹evermore. 

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

📖 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

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 20:19-31

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

▣ A Reading from the Gospel of **John**.

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

▣ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

▣ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

ELW 384

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

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 United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistant David, our synod companions Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Bridgeport; Community Baptist Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Carl Schoessel, those traveling, those with hail damage, Al Throop, Erika Wood,* and for all health care workers who care for them. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence along our journeys. Bless our doubts and questions. Provide trusting and safe relationships for all ages, to nurture our connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

- A** Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

- P** Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

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.**

Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

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

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.**

Table Prayer

- 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

- ☐ 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.

Sit
Communion

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- G** **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

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- G** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- P** 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.
- G** **Amen.**

Sending Song

We Walk by Faith

ELW 635

Sending

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

Postlude

A Wild, Skeptical Hope

“Doubting Thomas” is nearly always meant as a pejorative, but Jesus shows up for him. It’s easy to forget that Thomas is asking for nothing more than what Jesus has already provided to his friends—showing up for them, in the flesh. When he does the same for Thomas and Thomas exclaims, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28), Jesus responds, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (John 20:29). It’s easy to hear this as if Jesus were chastising Thomas while he blesses the rest of us, but he does no such thing. He can show up for Thomas and bless the rest of us all at the same time.

Can you even imagine what those days must have been like—those days between the crucifixion and resurrection, and then the days that followed, full to the brim with confusion and grief and rumors and wild, skeptical hope? Two thousand years can make us forgetful, as if those who were present in those moments had the luxury of knowing the entire story all at once, the way we do.

But they didn’t. Regardless, Thomas believed in a God big enough to carry his doubts and uncertainty. He trusted that God was big enough to hold all his questions and his hope.

What are the big doubts you carry? What are your questions? What kind of wild, skeptical hopes do you have, that you hardly dare to utter out loud, even to your closest friends? Do they feel any different when you stop to wonder about letting God carry them with you?

Here, at the beginning of the Easter season, God has shown us that very little is truly impossible. Thomas believed as much, and he had the courage to ask for it. Jesus shows up in response to Thomas’s bold ask, and through this witness, he blesses the rest of us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Jamie Heise

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Linda Melcher

Cantor – Mary Kuhlman

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship –Freedlund Family

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Attendance: 92	Views: 442
Weekly Giving: \$4,812.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Youth Bottles and Cans: \$5.00	Barry County Cares: \$80.00
ELCA World Hunger: \$50.00	Noisy Offering: \$43.73
Lifting Up Campaign Needed:	\$14,465.65; Note starting need was \$25,000.00.
Lifting Up Campaign Received:	-\$ 0.00
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$14,465.65

Grace is now accepting online donations through a QR code. We also continue to have online giving through our website.

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 stands among us – Jesus Christ.

Prayer Chain Grace is activating the prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Adult Forum studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Mark your calendar for our Special One Service Only Worship on April 30th at 10 am. Come and celebrate with a meal afterwards and hear some wonderful music. The sign-up sheet for the potluck is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Save the date May 7! Thornapple Players presents *Into the Woods*. Look for a signup sheet, so can plan to sit together. Cost for tickets are \$10.00 for Adults and \$8.00 for Senior Citizens and Students. Please use cash for this event, as Thornapple Players do not accept the church charge payment.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. Orders due May 10, 2023, with pick-up on Saturday, May 13th.