

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
April 23, 2023

# Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence. Today we go back to that first Easter day and join the disciples on a journey. As the disciples walk, Jesus joins them, but they do not recognize him. With the disciples we see Jesus as he 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.*

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

### Welcome

*Arise in body or Spirit*

### Easter Good News

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- ☐ I shall not die, but live,
- ☑ **and declare the works of the Lord.**

## Gathering Song

*Stay With Us*

WOV 743

## 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...O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread.
- Ⓑ **Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

👏 Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19



📖 Refrain



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has <sup>1</sup>heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup>supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given <sup>1</sup>ear to me  
whenev- <sup>1</sup>er I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave <sup>1</sup>came upon me;  
I came to <sup>1</sup>grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD:**

**“O LORD, I pray you, <sup>1</sup>save my life.”** 📖

<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- | pay the LORD  
for all the good things God has | done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup | of salvation  
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD  
in the presence of | all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your | sight, O LORD,  
is the death | of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I | am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name | of the LORD. ☩**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD  
in the presence of | all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of | the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! ☩**

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Peter 1:17-23**

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

☩ **A reading from 1 Peter:**

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

☩ **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

Luke 24:13-35

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

☐ The resurrection Gospel according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb

and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

📖 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

## Why Should I Feel Discouraged

TFF 252



1 Why should I feel dis - cour - aged, why should the shad - ows come,  
2 "Let not your heart be trou - bled," his ten - der word I hear,  
3 When - ev - er I am tempt - ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise,



why should my heart be lone - ly and long for heav'n and home,  
and rest - ing on his good - ness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
when song gives place to sigh - ing, when hope with - in me dies,



when Je - sus is my por - tion? My con - stant friend is he:  
though by the path he leads me but one step I may see:  
I draw the clos - er to him, from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;  
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;  
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;



his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.  
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.  
his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.

### Refrain



I sing be - cause I'm hap - py, I sing be - cause I'm free,



for his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.

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.**

▲ 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** Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Christina, our synod companions Zion Lutheran Church, Cadillac; Country Church, Dowling; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. 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.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Martha Misak, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Carl Schoessel, Al Throop, Erika Wood*, and for all health care workers who care for them. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized by gender or sexuality and those whose stories are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

**G** **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.

**G** **Amen.**

**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.**

**Sharing the Peace of God**

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

**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.**

**Table Prayer**

Ⓔ 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. 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.**

- 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.

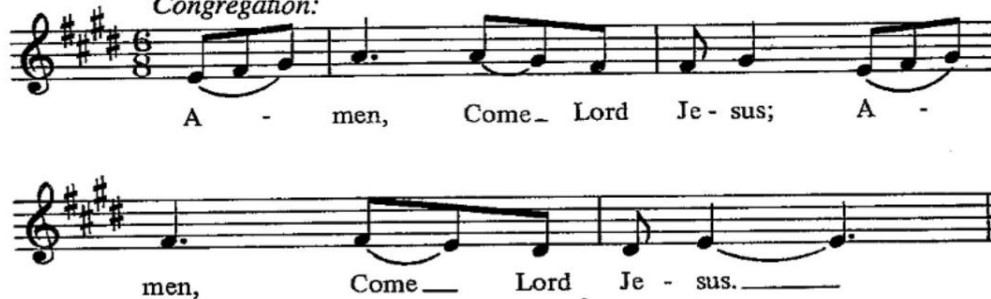
*Congregation:*



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!**

*Sit*

*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 Songs**

*We Come to the Hungry Feast  
Eat This Bread, Drink this Cup*

**WOV 766  
WOV 706**

## 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

*Arise in body or spirit*

## Blessing

- Ⓐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☒ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- Ⓐ 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.
- ☒ **Amen.**

## Sending Song

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

WOV 754

## Sending

- Ⓐ 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 – Joe Varkula  
Cantor – Cindy Olson  
Musician – Cindy Olson  
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

### 10:45 am

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

## **Accompaniment along the Way**

Today's gospel is a story of accompaniment. The two disciples are walking along, grief-stricken, trying to make sense of "the things that have taken place . . . in these days" (Luke 24:18), and Jesus simply joins them. He walks alongside them in their grief, he inquires about their questions, he meets them where they are.

That might be the most profound piece of this whole narrative—that Jesus doesn't try to explain to them what has happened, doesn't try to set the record straight, doesn't try to change their hearts or minds. He simply accompanies them on the journey and shoulders their questions and grief together with them.

Isn't this the very work of the church, week in and week out, as we gather for worship? We come alongside each other, meeting one another where we're at, whether that's in deep grief or celebration or apathy or any other emotion under the sun. We show up to see one other. We show up to be seen, to be accompanied along the way.

And when we gather at the table for the breaking of the bread, Jesus makes himself known to us in ways we cannot explain, as he did for those two disciples in that village of Emmaus. He meets us where we're at and then accompanies us on our way, strengthening us to do the same for those we meet out in the world, for those we meet along the way of our own journeys.

What a gift this is in this time and place, when being right is valued above all else, when so many people are in the business of setting the record straight at all costs. What a gift this is to us. What a gift we're invited to be, in this same way, to others.

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## Stewardship Information

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.

Attendance: 64	Views: 604
Weekly Giving: \$1495.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Helping Hands: \$90.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$14,465.65; Note starting need was \$25,000.00.	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 0.00</u>	
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 walks with us – Jesus Christ.**

**Stewardship Temple Talk** Today we welcome Tina Horrigan from Barry County Cares. This organization coordinates the efforts of local churches, businesses, and individuals to provide various means of assistance to Barry County residents. The assistance is not only with food, personal-care and other household items, but helping with bills, transportation, clothing, and other needs, especially where other programs may not be able to step in. You have likely noticed and contributed to our food box, the Noisy Offerings we collect, and the Christmas baskets we put together. Our thanks to Tina for discussing how our neighbors have been lifted up through this program that we have supported in the past and continue to support.

**Mark your calendar for our Special One Service Only Worship on April 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**A Message from Bishop Satterlee** “I am pleased to share the good news that Pastor Christina Bright accepted Synod Council’s call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. We will install Pastor Bright in this office at Closing Eucharist at Synod Assembly. Pastor Bright will complete her ministry as pastor of New Life Lutheran Church of Alcona County in June. After vacation, transition, and orientation, Pastor Bright will be available to the Synod on July 17.”

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

**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  
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provides childcare during this worship service.

**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!

**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.