

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)  
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414  
(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
April 30, 2023

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 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 experience Christ as our Good Shepherd. Jesus leads us and gives us insight of how to ignore the voices that might harm us. Those of us gathered here today are considered the sheep who follow Jesus and walk in his ways.*

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

## Gathering Music

*Percussive Praise  
I Love to Tell The Story*

Kevin McChesney  
Arr. James D. Kimball  
*Grace Notes Bell Choir*

## Welcome

*Arise in body or Spirit*

## Easter Good News

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- A** The Lord is our strength and song.
- C** The Lord has given us our salvation.

## Gathering Song

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

ELW 778

## Easter Greeting

- P** 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.
- C** 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.

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

- Ⓐ Let us pray... O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.
- ☑ **Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Special Music

*Rondo in 5/4*

John C. Dare  
*Grace Notes Bell Choir*

## First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

<sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

*Shepherd Me, O God*

ELW 780

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian 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 10:1-10

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

☐ The Resurrection Gospel according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

☐ 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

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

**ELW 768**

*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** You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Help our the leaders of our church especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Christine and David, our synod companions Zion Lutheran Church, Cadillac; Country Church, Dowling; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

**C** **You give us new life.**

- A** The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

**C** **You give us new life.**

- A** You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. 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.**

Ⓐ You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Wolfgang Alexander Holzgen (Jeanette Kogge Great-Grandma, along with parents Katie and Jordan who are so proud), Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Carl Schoessel, Al Throop, Erika Wood*, and for all health care workers who care for them. Hear us, O God.

☒ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

☒ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

☒ **You give us new life.**

☐ 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.

☒ **Amen.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Offering Song**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

**ELW 465**

**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:*



- Ⓟ 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!**

*Sit*

**Communion Music**

*Canticle*

John C. Dare  
*Grace Notes Bell Choir*

*Lamb of God*

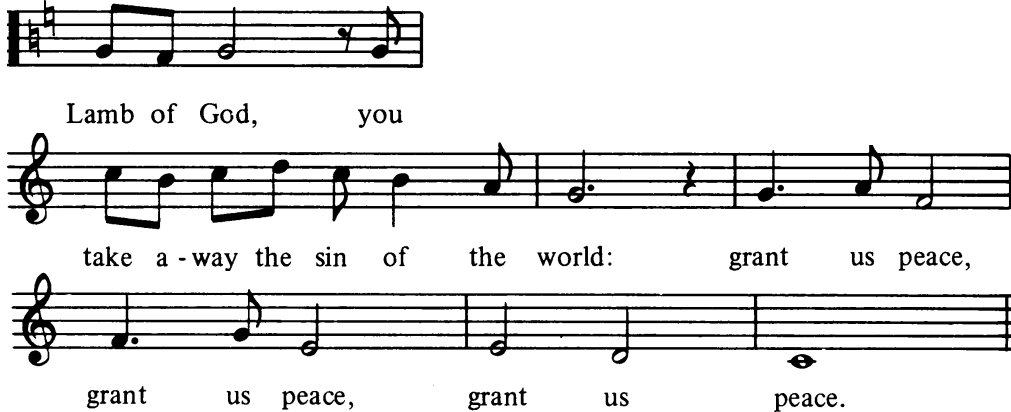


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,  
mer-cy on us.

**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**

*Blessed Assurance*  
*One Bread, One Body*

**ELW 638**  
**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

### Bell Choir Sending

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

Arr. James D. Kimball  
*Grace Notes Bell Choir*

*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

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

**ELW 798**

### 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

## **Tables Spread for Life Abundant**

Sometimes a table is spread in a generous fashion but still feels impersonal, like the buffet at a big conference. You can fill your plate as many times as you want, but that doesn't change the fact that you're wearing a printed name tag because no one in the room actually knows your name.

And sometimes a table spread seems meager because it's the end of the month or you didn't have time to make it to the store, but you're with friends who feel like family, so no one is worried about how simple the meal is.

Today we have the best of both worlds. We have abundance to the point of extravagance, and we have a God who knew our names even before we were born. We have a table heaped with grace upon grace and our heads anointed with oil, and we have a God whose voice we recognize as soon as we hear our names spoken aloud. All our beloveds have been invited, and every last one of us has a name card in front of our plates, handwritten in our favorite color, no doubt. Today we're reminded that even when the world feels like a wreck, God shows up with abundance, inviting us by name.

Where have you noticed this lately? Where have you noticed goodness and mercy following you around? Where have you noticed evidence that God wants you to experience life? In the feisty weeds poking up through the cracks in the sidewalks? In the hope of the students who are so close to summer break they can taste it? In the bright sunshine breaking through the clouds not thirty seconds after the thunder stops? In the youngest members of your worshiping community, skipping forward with their hands outstretched for bread and blessing?

It's there, this evidence of God's life abundant. Go looking for it. Go looking to remind someone else. It's way too good to miss.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**

**Lector – Vickey Argo**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

## Stewardship Information

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.



Attendance: 67	Views: 316
Weekly Giving: \$833.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Helping Hands: \$20.00	Miscellaneous: \$325.00
<b><i>Lifting Up</i></b> Campaign Needed: \$14,465.65; Note starting need was \$25,000.00	
<b><i>Lifting Up</i></b> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 4,575.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$ 9,890.65

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

**Stewardship Temple Talk** Today we hear from Mike Kemper, Chair of our Outreach Committee. This committee has led us into many ways of loving our neighbor and expressing our faith. Have you walked in the Good Friday Cross Walk? Handed out candy or cider at our Halloween Trick or Trunk? Read the Lenten devotional? The Outreach Committee coordinates the Christmas baskets we pull together for several community families and works with other Grace groups to hold the Annual Auto Show and BBQ. There are many ways our Outreach work touches people, whether those are Grace members, our neighbors in the county, or globally. Mike will let us know the vision of Outreach as we continue to do God's work with our hands.

**Outreach Committee meets May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.**

**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.

**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.**

**Reminder** Congregational Care Committee is having a meeting on Monday, May 9 at 3:00 pm.

**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 calls each of us by name and leads us throughout our lives.**

**We are glad you could join us for our Special One Service.** We are blessed to have the Grace Notes Bell Choir perform today. You are invited to stay for a meal afterwards. Proceeds from our meal go to the Helping Hands Fund that provides an extra boost for those who are in need.

**The Property Committee** invites you to a spring clean up event on **Friday, May 12 beginning at 1:00 p.m.** for the brush pile and the parking lot. On **Saturday, May 13, following the flower sale,** there will be a mulching party. We need your help placing mulch in the church flower beds. Your help with either of these activities is greatly appreciated.

**Synod Assembly** is Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, please pray for our church as they make decisions that affect the direction of the church. Our voting members are Bill and Lorraine Freedlund and Pastor Ken Scheck II.

**High Speed Internet Priorities Meeting** On **SATURDAY, MAY 20 from 10:00-Noon** there will be a meeting in the Fellowship Hall regarding the needs of local residents regarding the state of high-speed internet hosted by Chris Bush.

**Annual Church Picnic** You are cordially invited to the Annual Church Cookout on June 4th after second service at The Poholski home located at 6810 Highlandview Dr., Middleville. Please bring lawn chair and dish to pass. Please pray for a beautiful sunny afternoon.

**Lorie Gladyness** will receive her degree posthumously from Lutheran Southern Seminary on May 10. Her mother, Marilyn Curtis, will be receiving it on her behalf. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**Social Activities Committee** meets May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.