

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 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 caretaker in the book of John. Jesus says, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." We trust that Jesus will not leave us abandoned. Jesus will always walk with us.

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!**
- ☐ This is the day that the Lord has made;
- ☑ **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Gathering Song

Gather Us In

ELW 532

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 ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth.
- Ⓑ In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20




Refrain



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.

**⁹Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. **

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

**¹¹You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

**¹³I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.


**¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats. **

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

**¹⁷I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

**¹⁹but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. 

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

📖 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 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

- ☐ The Resurrection Gospel according to **John**.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

- ☐ 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

O Spirit of Life

ELW 405

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.

Ⓐ God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Zion Lutheran Church, Comstock Park; Doster Community Reformed Church, Plainwell; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☞ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

☞ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. 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.

☞ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob*

Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix and newborn baby (had baby on Saturday proud great grandparents The Kleinbrinks), Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Kathy Politis, Al Throop, Erika Wood. Hear us, O God.

☞ You give us new life.

☞ You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

☞ You give us new life.

☞ Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. 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

- P** Holy things for holy people.
- C** **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**
- P** Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- C** **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

*Come, All You People
Listen, God is Calling*

**ELW 819
ELW 513**

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

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW 519

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 – Mark Anton
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

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

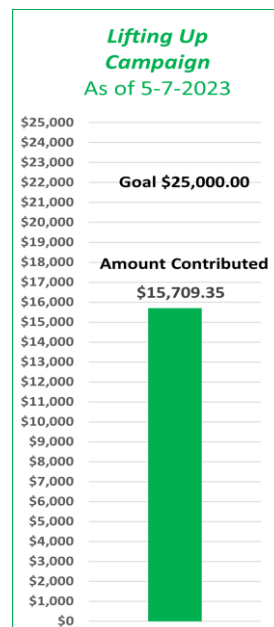
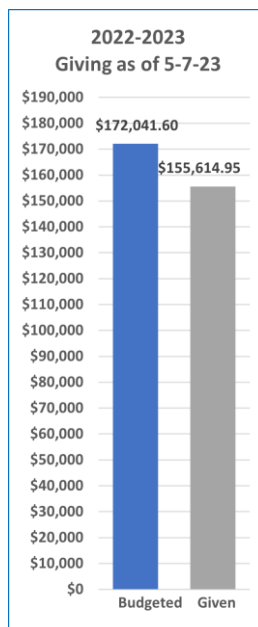
Life with the Spirit

What do we do when we feel abandoned by people we believed would always be there for us? When relationships end or coworkers betray us? When friends move or someone close to us dies? The impact of those losses can change our whole world. It can make us question our self-worth and make us wonder if we are really of any value. When this happens, it's easy to ask if what we do actually matters.

As Jesus prepares his disciples for what life will be like for them after he dies, he tells them to keep his commandments and assures them they will not be left orphaned. It's an important message for them to hear. They are about to experience the trauma of witnessing Jesus' betrayal and death, the fear of being wanted men hiding from the authorities, and the grief of feeling like they have lost their purpose in life. Their world is about to be thrown into chaos because the person who had led them, taught them, and taken care of them would now be gone.

Jesus' words are a promise that God's love is too great to leave them abandoned. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever" (John 14:15-16). His words are also a promise that what they continue to do matters. Keeping his commandments isn't necessary for God to love them, but doing so will serve as a reminder of their love for Jesus and will open them up to experiencing the Advocate in their lives. Jesus' command to love God and our neighbor isn't a fee we have to pay for the Spirit to spend time with us. It is our response to the powerful good news that the Spirit is with us forever.

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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 will not leave us orphaned.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 57	Views: 165
Weekly Giving: \$2880.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Helping Hands: \$40.00	Youth Bottles and Cans: \$10.30
Nursery: \$200.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$9,440.65 - Note starting need was \$25,000.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 150.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$9,290.65

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

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.

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.

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 normally 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.

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

Commitment Sunday May 21st is Commitment Sunday. Please prayerfully consider your level of giving for next year. We will distribute and collect pledge forms during a special time in each service. Thank you for your support of ministries at Grace.