

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 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 does so by praying for each and every one of us. Jesus prayed, "Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." Even though Jesus is no longer physically in the world, he still prays for us.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome/Commitment Sunday

Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

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

Gathering Song

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW 392

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. *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... God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand.
- Ⓑ **Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35



Refrain



¹Let God arise, and let God's ene-¹mies be scattered;
let those who¹ hate God flee.

**²As smoke is driven away, so you should drive¹ them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres-¹ence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice¹ before God;
let them also be mer-¹ry and joyful.

**⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who¹ rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice¹ before God!**

⁵In your holy habita-¹tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend-¹er of widows;

**⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners¹ into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in¹ desert places.**

⁷O God, when you went forth be-¹fore your people,
when you marched¹ through the wilderness,

**⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the¹ God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the¹ God of Israel.**

⁹You sent a bountiful¹ rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance¹ when it languished.

**¹⁰Your people found their¹ home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision¹ for the poor.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms¹ of the earth;
sing praises¹ to the Lord.

**³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the¹ ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your¹ mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe pow-¹er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is¹ in the skies.

**³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O¹ God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people!¹ Blessed be God!**

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

📖 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 17:1-11

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.**

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

☐ 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

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579

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 of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Be with *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Messiah Lutheran Church, Constantine; Emmanuel Rectory, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☪ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

☪ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. 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.**

Ⓐ You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob*

Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Cherie Clements, The Family of Ervin Danecki, Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Kathy Politis, Al Throop, Erika Wood. Hear us, O God.

☞ You give us new life.

☞ We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God.

☞ You give us new life.

☞ Almighty God, you raise your saints to new life in Christ.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. 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.

☐ 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

*I Come with Joy
Christ, Our Peace*

ELW 482
ACS 1037



Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;



Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod - y in you.

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

Crown Him With Many Crowns

ELW 855

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

God Doesn't Do Magic

It happens in the movies all the time: just as we are made to believe that all hope is lost and evil will triumph, suddenly the hero discovers a mystical phrase that will give him supernatural strength to defeat the enemy. Or the heroine finds a charmed sword that gives her the power to do the same. Believing in movie magic can be a welcome respite from the grind of everyday life. Knowing an enchanted word that keeps us impervious to harm sounds incredible—who wouldn't want that? Those moments may work in the movies, but they don't happen in real life.

Don't confuse Jesus' words in today's gospel with a magic spell or incantation. As Jesus prays for his disciples, he knows the suffering they will soon endure because they have come to believe in him. There is no way to avert what they will undergo; each one of his disciples is headed toward a certain and painful death, just as Jesus is. Jesus knows these things cannot be prevented, but that isn't the point of his prayer.

Being in the world means bad things will happen to us. Crosses aren't special charms that keep evil away, and wearing one won't keep you from harm. Tragedies take place, people get sick, bullies victimize, the innocent get blamed. There are no magic words to prevent hardships or disasters. When Jesus prays for the Father to protect those who belong to him, he isn't asking God to keep those bad things from happening. The name of God was never intended to create force fields around us keeping bad things out. God and the one who comes in God's name make us one together with them. In this unity, life always triumphs in the end.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Ken Scheck
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Bill & Lorraine Freedlund

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 upon God and realizes that Jesus prayed for us and teaches us to pray.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



At the posting of the bulletin on Thursday, May 18, 2023, the financial information was not available. This bulletin will be updated and reposted on Monday, May 22. Thanks for your patience.

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

Commitment Sunday TODAY is Commitment Sunday. We will distribute and collect pledge forms during a special time in each service. Thank you for your support of the ministries at Grace.

Time and Talent Inventory is available in the Gathering Area. Please fill out and return by July 1 to the collection folder. Thank you.

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 Drive, Middleville. Please bring lawn chair and dish to pass. Please pray for a beautiful sunny afternoon.

A Cedar Point trip is planned for June 11 (after 2 pm), 12 and a return on the 13th.

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.

Spring Flower Sale THANK YOU to all who supported the youth. The event raised \$660.20. Thank you for your support of the youth ministry here at Grace Church.