

Grace Lutheran Church

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Christ
is
Risen!

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 31, 2024

The Festival Worship of Christ's Resurrection

March 31, 2024

*We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. It's because of his death and resurrection that we are assured of forgiveness from our sins, and everlasting life with God.
The liturgical colors are white, a color of triumph and glory, and gold, a color of joy.*

Easter Good News

- ☐ On Good Friday when Jesus suffered and died on the cross the light went out of the world. Our sins were paid, and our salvation won; but the cost was the very life of Jesus Christ. Christ suffered and died, and darkness and silence covered the world. But darkness could not overcome the Light. Death could not conquer our Lord. On the third day Christ rose from the grave. Christ's life and glory and presence fill the world and fill our very lives. Our hearts fill with joy and our voices fill with praise. Jesus Christ lives. Alleluia!
- ☐ It is Easter Sunday and the tomb is empty. So, we come to proclaim together:
- ☑ **Christ is risen!**
- ☪ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
- ☐ Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!
- ☑ **Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! Praise be to God!**

Gathering Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ELW 365

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.**

Prayer of the Day

- ☪ Let us pray . . . O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death.
- ☑ **Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Special Music (10:45)

Rise Up with Him

by Janet Vogt

Vickey Argo & Kate Watson, vocalists
Cindy Olson, piano

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24



Refrain

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us re-joice and be glad in it.


¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"


¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD. 

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.


¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. 

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. 

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

☐ A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

☐ 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

Mark 16:1-8

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

☐ A Reading from the Gospel of **Mark**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

☐ 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

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

Nicene Creed

P Let us proclaim our faith together:

C **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Reveal your love, O Lord.***

- Ⓐ Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

- Ⓐ Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. Watch over and guide *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David our synod companions Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant; Peace United Methodist Church, Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

- Ⓐ Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

- Ⓐ Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. 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).* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

- Ⓐ Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. We lift up *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Lorraine Handsbarger, Diane Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Dennis Loewenstein, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, The Family of Darlene Umbarger, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. We lift our hearts to you,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

A Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace, We lift our hearts to you,

G **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

G **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.

G **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.

G **And also with you.**

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

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Resurrection of Our Lord - Page 9

Table Prayer

☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that 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.**

☞ 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 will 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.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:

☛ **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

Thine is the Glory

by **Judes Maccabaeus**

Played by Lydia Markwart (10:45 service)

Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 474

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

ELW 619

Prayer after Communion

- A** We give you thanks, O God, for making your home with us and bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal.
- C** **Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **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.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!

ELW 364

Sending

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

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Mike Kemper

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Joe Longcor
Cantor – Kate Watson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Mike Kemper
Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart

It's Not Over Yet

When you think back over your favorite books, do you remember the endings? If the story leads to a satisfying conclusion, even if the plot twists and turns, the writer keeps our attention. When we commit to a book, we put a lot of faith in the author to tell a good story and to wrap up their tale in a way that makes sense. When the ending is unclear or unbelievable, we wish we hadn't invested so much time in their book.

When Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to Jesus' tomb, they thought they knew the ending of his story. Jesus' death on the cross brought his ministry to an abrupt conclusion. There was nothing left to do but show their devotion by anointing him with spices. How surprised the women must have been to hear that Jesus' story hadn't ended after all! He had been raised. He was going ahead of his followers to Galilee. They would see him again!

To us, this story of Jesus' resurrection is familiar, so we hear it as good news. For the women, though, it was terrifying. This wasn't how they expected Jesus' story to turn out. They had seen him die on the cross, and now they were being told he was alive? They didn't know what to make of this twist in Jesus' story. They were so afraid that they fled.

The women ran away because they were shocked when the story didn't turn out the way they expected. But soon they would learn that this was a *happy* ending: Where they had seen death, God made a way for new life! What seemed like the conclusion was actually a beginning. It was the dawn of a new day, a resurrection day. As followers of Jesus, we don't know what our future holds or how our stories will end, but we can trust that Jesus is alive. He goes ahead of us, leading us into a future full of God's love and grace.

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Turkeyville Dinner Theater *Oklahoma* is now scheduled for **Friday, May 17th** for those who have purchased tickets. This is a date change from Saturday, the 18th. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bill Freedlund.

First Aid and CPR Training Saturday, April 27 from 12:30 until 7:00 there will be a full course of adult, child and infant CPR, AED, and First Aid training for \$90. On Monday, April 29 from 2:30 until 5:30 there will be a CPR renewal/challenge class for \$60. On Sunday, April 28 from 3:15 until 5:00 there will be a FREE basic CPR and AED awareness class. For more information on any of these opportunities, please see the flyer in the Gathering Area, or contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024 or kdomke08@gmail.com.

Adopt-A-Highway is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th. Please meet here at Grace at 9:00 a.m. The rain date is April 20th. If you need additional information, please contact Joe Longcor.

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 risen Christ who breathes new life into us.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 50	Views: 324
Weekly Giving: \$1,758.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00
Received To Date	- <u>\$535.00</u>
Total Needed	\$24,717.00
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5.00	

We welcome Pastor David Sprang as preacher and presider today. Pastor Sprang is the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Director of Evangelical Mission and the Assistant to Bishop Satterlee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Scheck is taking time away seeking God’s peace, healing, and transformation. We are thankful for God’s Holy Spirit who sustains Grace Lutheran Church during this time of refreshment, renewal, and trust in God’s guidance during this time.

Game and Pizza Night The Social Activities Committee invites you to a game and pizza night on Friday, April 12 from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. Please check the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for more information and to sign up.

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. They are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta. **The deadline for March is today.**

The nursery is available weekly 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.

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Joe Longcor leading the study.

The 20th Annual Thornapple Jazz Festival is happening here at Grace on Friday, April 26 from 9:00-3:00. The schedule for the day’s events is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There are additional events scheduled in other locations around Hastings. Please see www.tacjazzfestival.org for more information.