

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
April 7, 2024

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

*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 gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus 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 such that no one among us is in need.*

## Welcome

## Gathering Music

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

*Arise in body or Spirit*

## Easter Good News

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- A** This is the day that the Lord has made;
- C** **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**
- P** The Lord is my strength and my song.
- C** **The Lord has become my salvation.**
- A** Open to me the gates of righteousness;
- C** **I will go through them and praise the Lord.**
- P** I shall not die, but live,
- C** **and declare the works of the Lord.**
- A** This is the day that the Lord has made;
- C** **we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Gathering Song

*The Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

ELW 384

## Easter Greeting

- P** Holy people of God, given new life through the resurrected Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**



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

- A** Let us pray . . . Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection.
- G** **By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

**Acts 4:32-35**

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

- L** A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

- L** The word of the Lord.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 133




Refrain

How good and how pleas-ant it is to  
live to-geth-er in u - ni - ty.

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleas-<sup>1</sup> ant it is,  
when kindred live togeth-<sup>1</sup> er in unity!

<sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up-<sup>1</sup> on the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar<sup>1</sup> of his robe. 

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the<sup>1</sup> hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for-<sup>1</sup> evermore. 

## Second Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

### ☐ A reading from **1 John:**

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **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!

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Children’s Message**

**Message**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Song of the Day**

*We Walk by Faith*

**ELW 635**

## Prayers

*You may sit or kneel.*

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.***

- A** 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*

- A** Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed, and we witness to your love. Guide and direct those in leadership positions *including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion First Lutheran Church, Muskegon; Pleasant Valley United Brethren Church, Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

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

- A** Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. Hear us, O God.

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

- A** Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, so that no one may need to live in fear. 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.**

- A** Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Allison Domke (pregnancy), Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Lorraine Handsbarger, Diane Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Dennis Loewenstein, Larry Maupin, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Jan Northrup, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, Russ Trongo, and Brenda Watson.* Hear us, O God.

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



**A** Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. Hear us, O God.

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

*Here other intersessions may be offered.*

**P** Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears.

**C** **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.

**C** **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 risen Christ be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

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

*Please be seated.*

**Song of Thanksgiving**

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

**ELW 689**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

**A** Let us pray . . . Praise and thanks to you, hold God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For you Word of life, O God,

**C** **we give you thanks and praise.**

- Ⓐ By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life O god,
- ☞ **we give you thanks and praise.**
- Ⓐ Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For you word of life, O God.
- ☞ **we give you thanks and praise.**
- Ⓐ Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a word in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
- ☞ **Amen.**

### 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.**

*Please be seated.*

### Mission Minutes

*Arise in body or spirit.*

### Blessing

- Ⓟ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- Ⓟ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- ☞ **Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*Thine is the Glory*

**ELW 376**

## Dismissal

☞ Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve  
Go, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

☞ 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 – Dave Neeb

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Lay Leader – Kate Watson

### 10:45 am

Assisting Minister Vickey Argo

Lector – Linda Melcher

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Lay Leader – Kate Watson

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

## Sharing Joy

“Thank you for sharing our joy,” said the parents of the bride to the wedding guests. This simple message sums up the reason we gather with loved ones to celebrate the best moments of our lives. When we share our joy, it multiplies.

When the disciples were gathered in a locked room, the appearance of the risen Jesus transformed their fear into joy. On the evening of the resurrection, all the disciples except Thomas were together. They got to see Jesus standing among them, and they rejoiced! Immediately, Jesus gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. He also sent them out to continue his work in the world, including the forgiveness of sins.

With that commissioning, Jesus channeled the disciples’ joy into a sense of belonging and purpose. Now they were no longer afraid or isolated. Jesus was alive. Everything had changed! Their risen Lord made them into a new community. But Thomas wasn’t there when Jesus first stood among them, and he couldn’t grasp the good news. He saw the joy radiating from the other disciples’ faces, but he didn’t share it.

As a gift of grace, Jesus appeared again and brought Thomas into the new community. He let the skeptical disciple see and touch the wounds on his body. By doing so, Jesus extended the joy and sense of belonging that the others had experienced to Thomas, who responded with joy, “My Lord and my God!”

As disciples of Jesus, we belong to the same resurrection community that our risen Lord created that first Easter evening. We get to share our joy in the promise of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with those around us. Our believing and sense of belonging fortify each other. As today’s reading from 1 John declares, when we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and carry out God’s work in the world together, our joy is made complete.

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

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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 risen Christ who breathes new life into us.

### Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Easter Attendance: 69	Views: 384
Good Friday Attendance: 20	Easter Flower Sale for Youth: \$240.00
Maundy Thursday Attendance: 13	Bell Choir Gift: \$100.00
Weekly Giving: \$2,892.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
Memorials: \$155.00	March Online Giving: \$3,646.26
	Lenten Dinner March 20 for Computers: \$75.00

<b>Grace Projects Goal</b>	<b>\$25,252.00</b>
Received To Date	<u>-\$ 1,340.00</u>
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$23,912.00</b>

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$805.00

We welcome **Kate Watson** as lay leader today. We are blessed with many people 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.

**Noisy Offering** will be taken next week. Noisy offerings support Barry County Cares.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each.** Orders due Wednesday, May 6th, with pick-up on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until NOON.** Order forms are available in the bulletin and May GraceGram. We thank Erin Franks and Shayna Gibbons for facilitating this sale.

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

**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.

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

**The 20<sup>th</sup> 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 at Grace 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](http://www.tacjazzfestival.org) for more information.



**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.

## That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

# We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.



# As the Grains of Wheat


*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*Refrain*

## Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things  
 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3 Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom's  
 4 Then will your blessing reach every people, freely con-

liv - ing, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
 guid - ing teach us to share one with another, so that, re -  
 fess - ing your gracious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.  
 with you, harvest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

## Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*  
 where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!