

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 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

Temple Talk

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Please arise in body or Spirit.

Easter Good News

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- ☐ The Lord is my strength and my song.
- ☑ **The Lord has become my salvation.**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Easter Greeting

☐ Holy people of God, given new life through the resurrected Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Song of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167



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. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.
- Ⓒ **Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 22:25-31



Refrain



²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations. ☒**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" ☒

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

📖 A reading from **1 John**:

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Please 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 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

- ☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Children’s Message

Message



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace,
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your word
 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun - teous Lord;
 5 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;



that e - vil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
 and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.
 your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.
 let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your word.
 grant stead - fast - ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

Please be seated.

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 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 We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. Guide and direct *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion Bethany Lutheran Church, Northport; Delton Seventh Day Adventist, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. 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.

G You give us new life.

A For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering *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, 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, Ron Smith, Barry Swanson, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson*. Hear us, O God.

G You give us new life.

A For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. Hear us, O God.

G You give us new life.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table.

G Amen.

Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of risen Christ be with you.

G And also with you.

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

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

Refrain

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

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.**

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.**

☐ 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.

- ☐ 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.

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.

Invitation to Communion

☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff is in 2/4 time and contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff is in 2/4 time and contains the melody for the third line of lyrics, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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:

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun-ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

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

Please arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- Ⓐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- Ⓒ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- Ⓐ The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of + Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.
- Ⓒ **Amen.**



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Dismissal

Ⓟ 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

Fed by God, Nourished by Christ

Imagine a nursing baby at its mother's breast—what a blissful picture of love, joy, peace, and contentment! This image can help us understand who we are as God's beloved children and how tenderly God cares for us. God's grace is unconditional, just as a mother's milk flows to an infant without anything to do with deserving. In today's gospel reading, the vine-and-branches metaphor is another image of how intimately connected Jesus is with us and how crucial it is that we, the branches, hold on to him as our vine.

“Apart from me,” says Jesus, “you can do nothing.” Apart from its vine, a branch can do nothing—cannot live long, cannot produce grapes, cannot nourish people and animals. Apart from its mother or another devoted caregiver, a newborn can do nothing—cannot feed itself, cannot become or stay healthy, cannot grow and bear the fruit of life and love for others. Apart from God's love and care, which Christians know in Jesus, the whole web of humanity fails to thrive.

A nursing mother sets her face and does whatever is needed—two or three times a night at first, even through mastitis, weariness, and boredom—to feed and impart life to her little one. Jesus' face is set toward the cross as he shares farewell counsel with his disciples. He, too, is ready and determined to do whatever it takes—even dying on a cross—to sustain the vineyard-world with abundant life.

The imagery of vine and branches, juxtaposed with that of God breastfeeding her babies, comes alive when we celebrate the eucharist. At the table, Jesus feeds us with his own body and blood, pouring life and nourishment into us. We are called to abide in him forever—an invitation to grace-filled, permanent relationship. In Jesus the true vine, we his branches enjoy a continual flow of grace, mercy, and love. In turn, we are energized to bear the fruit of his love, joy, and peace for the world.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Dave Neeb

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Paul Kuhlman

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Linda Melcher

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Paul Kuhlman

Fellowship – The Kuhlman's

Annual Grace Picnic This year the picnic will take place on Sunday, June 9th following the 10:45 service at the home of Phil and Amy Poholski, 6810 Highlandview, Middleville. Hods, buns, condiments, assorted chips, lemonade, and iced tea will be provided. If you are interested in a walk through the woods, please bring walking shoes. We hope you can join us for food, fun and fellowship.

Vehicle Needed Aurora, our nursery attendant, needs to borrow a car so she can take her driving test. If you can help, please call her at 269.953.5200.

Blood Drive Grace will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, May 23rd. Details and sign up will be posted in the Gathering Area.

Women of Faith meet **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.** A reminder that we will NOT meet on Monday, May 28th. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. Orders due Wednesday, May 6th, with pick-up on Saturday, May 11th 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.

First Aid and CPR Training TODAY from **3:15 until 5:00** there is a FREE basic CPR and AED awareness class. **Monday, April 29 from 2:30 until 5:30** there will be a CPR renewal/challenge class for \$60. 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 17th** for those who have purchased tickets. We will be meeting in the church parking lot for a **10:30 departure**. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bill Freedlund.



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. This month's donations are **due today**. Thank you for your continued support.

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: 57
Weekly Giving: \$1,825
Memorial Gifts: \$640.00

Views: 316
Budget Amount: \$4,366.17



Grace Projects Goal \$25,252.00
Received To Date - \$ 2,250.00
Total Needed \$23,002.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects \$645.00

We welcome **Pastor Paul Kuhlman** as preacher and presider today. 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.

Temple Talks allow us to reflect on how our offerings help Grace ministries. The second of our Temple Talk is today, with our final to follow on **Sunday, May 5th**. **Sunday May 19th** will be Commitment Sunday, where we'll fill out pledge forms for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This information will help Grace leadership balance anticipated income with the budget. In early June, the Committee will have a draft budget available for review.

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.

Brat Sale the Brothers of Grace are having a pork brat sale benefiting the Alpha Women's Center. The cost is \$6.00 for a package of 4. Orders are due by **Sunday, May 12th** with pick up on **Thursday, May 23rd between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** here at Grace. Brats will be made on **Wednesday, May 22nd from 5:00 p.m. until approximately 7:30 p.m.** Sign-ups for ordering and helping are on the board in the Gathering Area. If you have questions or need an alternate time to pick up your order, please contact Joe Longcor.