# **Grace Lutheran Church**

239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

> Phone: (269) 945-9414 (269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music May 4, 2025

# **Third Sunday of Easter**

# May 4, 2025

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.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

**Gathering Music** 

COMPANOS SONOS played by the Clapper Kids

by Kathleen Wissinger

Arise in body or Spirit

#### **Easter Good News**

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



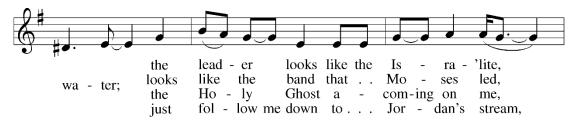




wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the wa - ter.



- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red.
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see? God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
- 4 If you don't be-lieve I've been re deemed,





## **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.
- **ఆ** And also with you.



### Prayer of the Day

- A Let us pray . . . Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might.
- By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music Bluebirds' Flight by Matthew Prins
Joan Hefflebower, Gayle Marsh, and Kim Domke, Bells

Please be seated.

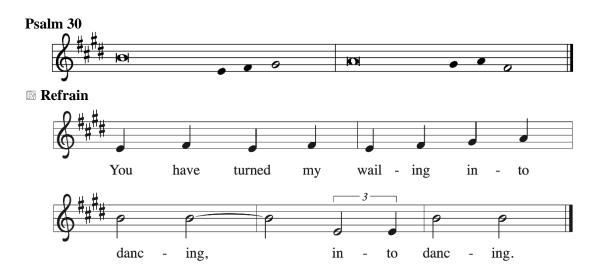
First Reading Acts 9:1-6

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

# L A reading from **Acts**.

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

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



<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried | out to you, and you restored | me to health.

<sup>3</sup> You brought me up, O LORD, <sup>1</sup> from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down <sup>1</sup> to the grave.

<sup>4</sup> Sing praise to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you faithful; give thanks in ho- <sup>1</sup>ly remembrance. 

■

<sup>5</sup>God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

<sup>6</sup> While I felt se- | cure, I said, "I shall never | be disturbed.

<sup>7</sup> You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

8 I cried to | you, O LORD; I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,

<sup>9</sup> "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or de-t clare your faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and have mer- cy upon me;
 O LORD, be my helper.

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my wailing | into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Second Reading Revelation 5:11-14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

## **L** A reading from **Revelation**.

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice,

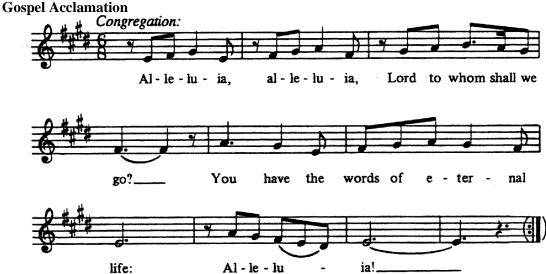
"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

- <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.
- L The word of the Lord.
- **☑** Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.



Gospel Reading John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

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

## **ఆ** Glory to you, O Lord.

- <sup>1</sup> After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
- <sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.
- <sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.
- <sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."
- P The Gospel of the Risen Christ.
- **☑** Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

#### 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



Please sit or kneel.

#### **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 God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

- A Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Guide and direct those in leadership positions, including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and Kjersten, our synod companion Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland; Woodland United Methodist Church; Yankee Springs Bible Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Hear us, O God.
- **Q** You give us new life.
- A Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries, so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.
- **You give us new life.**
- A Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Be with those who safeguard the world, including Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Seth Domke (Domke), and Nathen Schick (Markwart). Hear us, O God.
- **Q** You give us new life.
- A Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care, especially Jennie Anderson, Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Steve Croel, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Lisa Golnek, Heather Gore, Larry Griswold, Joy Jenks, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Dana Lepien, Alexis Markwart, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Linda Melcher, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Lisa Nurenberg, Kali Ranguette (pregnancy), Tammy Rodriguez, Lynnze Rudesill-Nuyen, Sandy Scheck, Ron Smith, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson. Hear us, O God.
- **You give us new life.**

- A You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God.
- **G** You give us new life.

Here other intersessions may be offered.

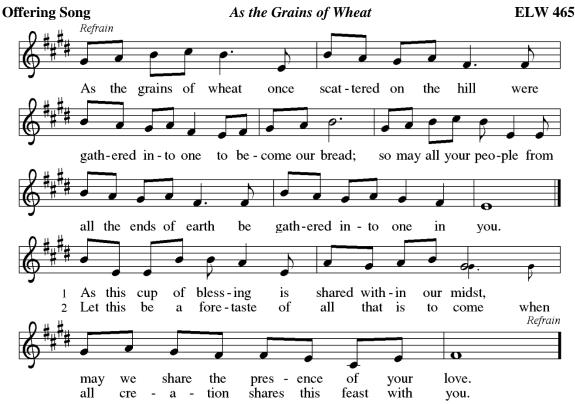
- Me praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God.
- **Q** You give us new life.
- **P** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- Amen.

Please arise in body or spirit.

## **Sharing the Peace of God**

- P The peace of Christ be with you.
- And also with you.

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

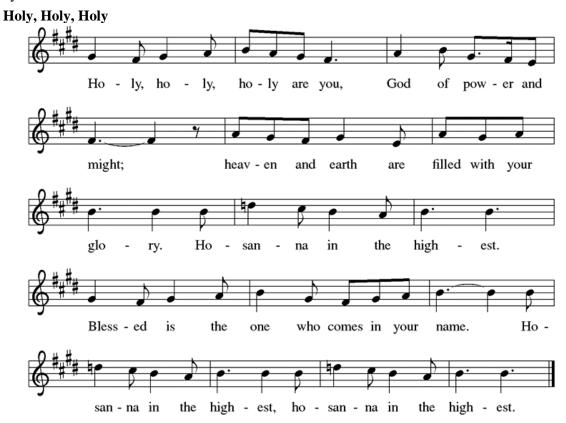


### **Offering Prayer**

- Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- **Q** Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

### **Great Thanksgiving**

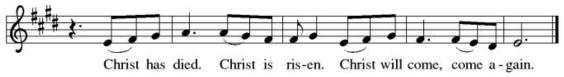
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **9** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **■** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise 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:



#### **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.
- **B** By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
- P 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 in remembrance of me.
- P 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 in 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.
- P 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.

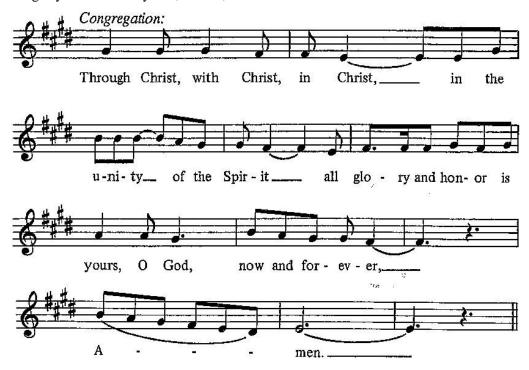


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P Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.



P All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.



## Lord's Prayer

- P 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.

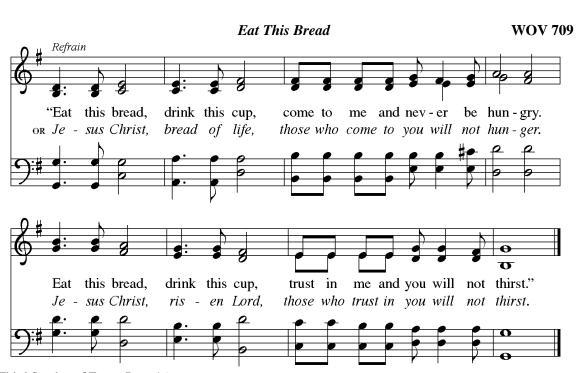
#### **Invitation to Communion**

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

Please be seated.







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### **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.
- **Q** 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.
- **©** 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.
- Amen.



#### **Dismissal**

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

#### **Postlude**

#### 9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Musician – Cindy Olson
Cantor – Paul Kuhlman
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Diane Neeb

Bell Trio – Joan Hefflebower, Gayle Marsh, and Kim Domke

Clapper Kids – Tyler, Ethan, and Alicia Devroy; Emma, Tenley, and Amanda Wilkinson; Liz, David, and Alice Allerding; Shayna and Raylan Gibbons

# **Grace upon Grace**

The risen Christ is difficult to recognize at first. According to today's gospel reading from John, even as he approached his disciples on the beach, they "did not know that it was Jesus" (John 21:4). Neither did Mary Magdalene recognize him outside the tomb on Easter morning. She assumed he was the gardener (20:14-15). Apparently, resurrection changes Jesus to the extent that he appears a stranger even to his closest friends.

That is, until he makes himself known to them again. In Mary's case, he simply speaks her name. "Rabbouni! Teacher!" she replies, newly hopeful as she carries the good news to the others (20:16-18). For the disciples in the fishing boat, it is a miraculous catch that brings Jesus' identity to light. "It is the Lord!" the beloved disciple says to Peter, who promptly dives overboard to reach Jesus on the shore (21:7).

As the story draws to a close, Jesus returns to his disciples with signs that he will continue to be with them. He calls them by name, feeds them with abundance, and invites them again into lives of purpose: "Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep" (21:17). In this way, the end of the Gospel of John recalls the beginning. Jesus, crucified and risen, continues to grant his followers "grace upon grace" (1:16).

Moreover, the end of John signals the beginning of Jesus' ministry alongside disciples through the ages. The risen Jesus is a mystery to us too. We may not readily recognize him in the course of daily life. Yet even as he is hidden from view, he is also revealed. In baptism, he calls us by name. At his table, he feeds us with abundance. At the doorways of our gathering places, he invites us again and again into lives of purpose. Grace upon grace.

Christ is risen indeed. Come, follow him! From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Parish Administrator is Anna Scheck; office hours 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

Welcome to worship today! We are thrilled that you are here. 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 Jesus, who died on the cross and is raised to new life. Today Jesus eats with the disciples showing all that he is alive. Let us celebrate the life we have in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

## **Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 39 Views: 324

Weekly Giving: \$4,075.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

O Cartos al M

\*Slim Jim's

Snack Pack Pudding Cups \*Granola Bars

Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk "Applesauce Cups

\*Ramen

 Grace Projects Goal
 \$ 25,252.00

 Received To Date
 -\$ 4,500.00

 Total Needed
 \$ 20,752.00

Easter Flower Profit: \$215.29 go to Living Water Ministries

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$0.00

**Hand2Hand** Thank you for generously supporting Hand2Hand this month, and throughout this whole school year! We are helping 101 students who may be hungry over the weekends. May's needed items are Slim Jim's, individual pudding cups, granola bars, Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, applesauce cups, and Ramen Noodles. The donation deadline is May 25. Thank you for your support of this ministry – this is the last month for donations until school resumes!

**Women of Faith** meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 am here at Grace. Join us in studying "Listening to God" on May 6, 13, 20, and 27. All women are welcome.

**Social Activities Committee** meets tomorrow, May 5 at 1:30 pm.

**Congregational Care Committee** meets tomorrow, May 5 at 3:00 pm.

**Brothers of Grace** meets this Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 pm.

**Spring Flower Sale Pickup** is this Saturday, May 10 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Orders are due by Thursday, May 8.

Outreach Committee will meet next Monday, May 12 at 3:00 pm.

Executive Committee will meet next Tuesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm.

**Stewardship Temple Talks** allow us to reflect on how our offerings help Grace ministries. Our final Temple Talk and Commitment Sunday will be on **Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will be filling out pledge forms for the 2025-26 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 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 after worship today with Pastor Ken, with a study on Hebrews.