

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

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.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

- Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- This is the day that the Lord has made;
- we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Gathering Song

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray...Almighty and eternal God,
- Ⓑ **the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

📖 A reading from Acts:

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16



Refrain



In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

**²All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

³But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

**⁴I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips. ☒**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

**⁶My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

**⁸I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. ☒**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

**¹⁰For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore. ☒

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

👏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

☐ The Resurrection Gospel from **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When 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.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.**

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

Touch That Soothes and Heals

ACS 939



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

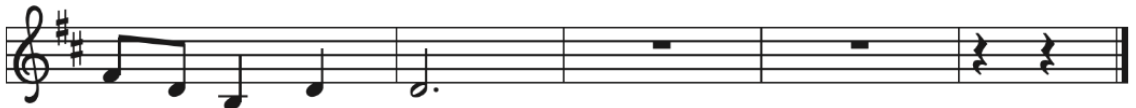
Refrain



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

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

Ⓐ Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Ⓐ Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day, including *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Reed City; Hope Lutheran Church in Rhodes; Vermontville Bible Church; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☑ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Hear us, O God.

☑ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. 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), Hudson Schick (Markwart) and Leopold Schick (Markwart).* Hear us, O God.

☑ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, especially *Jennie Anderson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, the family of Chuck Foerster, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Cynthia Hansen, Walker Heise, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Carrie Miller, Janet Moomey, Tricia Moredock, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Emma Poholski (pregnancy), Edith Rose, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Dan Stanton, Kathy Surratt, Mira Thomas, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Tom and Kathy.* Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Hear us, O God.

☑ **You give us new life.**

Ⓐ Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

☑ **You give us new life.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

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.)

Offering Song

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

ELW 535

Refrain— sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

I Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
sung twice

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.**

Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Table Prayer

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:

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.

Table Prayer

- ☐ We should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.
- ☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**
- ☐ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
- ☑ **Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**
- ☐ Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
- ☑ **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**
- ☐ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- Ⓟ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- ☞ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
- ☞ **Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.**
- Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
- ☞ **Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.**

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

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 Songs

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

ELW 384

The Peace of the Lord

ELW 646

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

Arise in body or spirit

Sending Song

We Walk by Faith

ELW 635

Sending

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

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Mark Anton

Cantor – Anna Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Usher – Dave Neeb

Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart

Do you have loose change? Monies collected from today's Noisy Offering will benefit Barry County Cares. Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of every month.

The Congregation Council invites you to contribute to the Parking Lot Cement Project. We have had a member step forward giving a 3 to 1 match, up to \$7,000, for any monies received April 1st through April 30th. Thank you for considering contributing toward the cement project.

Social Activities Committee Event #1: Game and Pizza Day: after worship NEXT WEEK, on Sunday, April 19th. We hope to see you there for a time of fellowship and fun! There is a sign-up sheet for pizza in the Gathering Area. Bring games and snacks to share.

Social Activities Committee Event #2: "Shrek" (the musical) at the Dennison Center is planned for Saturday, May 9th, at 7:00 pm. Dinner afterwards will not take place. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area. Tickets will be available online. If you need help with the purchase price of the tickets, please see Bill Freedlund.

Pasty Sale Blast from the Past May 2: Unbaked \$7.00 & Baked \$8.00

Be Curious

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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 comes to us, even when walls divide. Let us tear down walls by celebrating the life we have in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 53 Views: 188
 Weekly Giving: \$2,078.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02
 Online Giving in March: \$2,594.14



Offerings received to date through March	\$151,812.31
Offerings received in April	+ \$ 2,078.00
Year to date total of offerings	<u>\$153,890.31</u>

Grace Projects Goal	\$ 7,000.00	Matching 3 to 1 Cement Project
Received To Date	<u>-\$ 1,768.00</u>	
Total Needed	\$ 5,232.00	

Given this week toward Non-Budget Funds: \$0

Given this week toward Grace Projects - Parking Lot fund: \$1,768.00 Brat sale: \$25.00

Parish Administrator is Cindy Olson. **Her office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Wed.**
Pastor Ken's office hours are now 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon & Wed.

The nursery is available weekly during the worship service.

Spring Flower Sale has begun. Help raise funds for Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services). Pick up is on Saturday, May 9th from 9-12 noon.

Women of Faith will be starting a **new topic** for our **Bible Study in April: Growing Older and Wiser.** We meet **Tuesdays 11:00 am – noon at church.** All women are welcome (and don't worry if you have to miss some weeks)! Please join us this week, April 14th.