

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence. Today we go back to that first Easter day and join the disciples on a journey. As the disciples walk, Jesus joins them, but they do not recognize him. With the disciples we see Jesus as he 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.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Opus 3, #1

by Carl Filtsch
Carla Neil, piano

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!**

Gathering Song

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

ELW 364

Easter Greeting

- P** 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.
- C** **And also with you.**

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



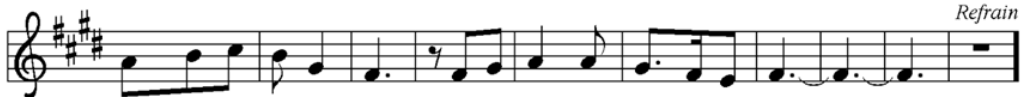
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



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...O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread.
- ☒ **Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Ⓛ A reading from **Acts:**

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Ⓛ Word of God, word of life.

☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19




Refrain



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

¹ I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
² **for the LORD has given | ear to me**
whenev- | er I called.

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:**
“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.” 


¹² How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup | of salvation**
and call on the name | of the LORD.


¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God’s people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your | sight, O LORD,**
is the death | of your servants.

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving**
and call upon the name | of the LORD. 

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God’s people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of | the LORD’s house,**
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! 

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

☐ A reading from **1 Peter**:

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

☐ 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! *Repeat optional*

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

P The Resurrection Gospel from **Luke**.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

G **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

Day of Arising

ELW 374

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.

- Ⓐ Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Hope Lutheran Church in Rockford; St. James Lutheran Church in Rogers City; Welcome Corners United Methodist Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☒ **You give us new life.**

- Ⓐ Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Hear us, O God.

☒ **You give us new life.**

- Ⓐ God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. 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.**

A Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick, especially *Jennie Anderson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, The family of Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Walker Heise, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Carrie Miller, The family of Janet Moomey, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Emma Poholski (pregnancy), Edith Rose, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy.* Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of 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.

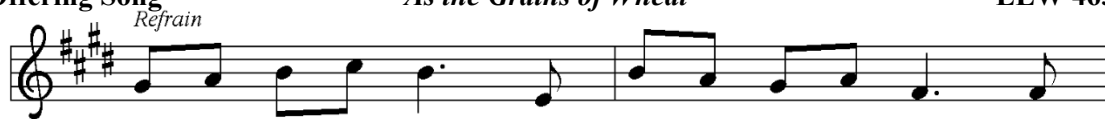
G **And also with you.**

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

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465



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

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.

Table Prayer

☐ 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

*Spirit of Gentleness
One Bread, One Body*

ELW 396

ELW 496

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- C** **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

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Sending

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

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Kate Watson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Usher – Erin & Greg Franks

Fellowship –Lorraine & Bill Freedlund Come back to the fellowship hall for games and food!

Social Activities Committee Event #1: Game and Pizza Day: after worship TODAY. 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.

Pastor Ken's office hours are now 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon & Wed.

Parish Administrator is Cindy Olson. Her office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Wed.

The Way of Resurrection

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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.**

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet this Thursday at 12:00 noon – all are welcome to come to communion at the beginning of the study and leave if you cannot stay for the bible study.

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 walks with us in our times of hardship. Let us celebrate that God cares for us and listens to our fears, helps us in our sorrows and gives us new life. Alleluia!

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 37 Views: 188
 Weekly Giving: \$3,135.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02



Offerings received to date through March	\$151,812.31
Offerings received in April	+ \$ 5,213.00
Year to date total of offerings	<u>\$159,103.31</u>

Grace Projects Goal	\$ 7,000.00	Matching 3 to 1 Cement Project
Received To Date	<u>-\$ 6,568.00</u>	
Total Needed	\$ 432.00	

Given this week toward Non-Budget Funds: \$280.00
 Given this week toward Grace Projects - Parking Lot fund: \$4,800.00 Easter Flower sale: \$20.00

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.

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 21st.

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