

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St  
Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)  
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
April 26, 2026

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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

## Temple Talk

*Arise in body or Spirit*

### **Easter Good News**

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

## Gathering Song

*Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

**ELW 544**

## 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.
- G** **And also with you.**

*Refrain*



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



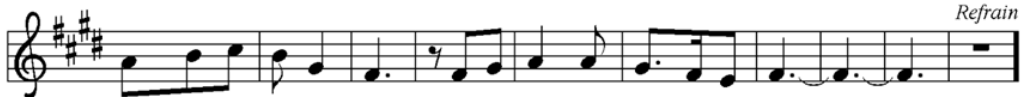
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



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

- A** Let us pray... O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.
- C** **Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

**Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

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

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

- L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23



### Refrain



The LORD is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup> comfort me.** ☩

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever.** ☩

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

☐ A reading from **1 Peter**:

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly.

<sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian 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!

*Repeat optional*

## Gospel Reading

**John 10:1-10**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

☐ The Resurrection Gospel from **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

☐ 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**

***Shepherd Me, O God***

**ELW 780**

*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.***

- A** 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.*

- A** Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Rose City; Woodgrove Brethren Christian Church in Woodland; Woodland United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

- A** Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

- A** Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. 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.

**G** **You give us new life.**

- A** Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured, 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, Carmen Karkau, Martha Klenk, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Emma Poholski (pregnancy), Edith Rose, Lynnze Rudesill, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Samantha VandenBusch, and Tom and Kathy.* Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

**A** Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Hear us, O God.

**G** **You give us new life.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. 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.)*

*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.**

### 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.

### Ⓞ *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.**
- Ⓟ 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.

*Congregation:*

A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A -  
men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. \_\_\_\_\_

- Ⓟ 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

<i>The Lord's My Shepherd</i>	ELW 778
<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	ELW 789

### 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**

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

**ELW 764**

## **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 – Vickey Argo**

**Lector – Bill Freedlund**

**Cantor – Mark Anton**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

**Usher – Dave Neeb**

**Fellowship - Paul Kuhlman**

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

**Parish Administrator is Cindy Olson. Cindy will not be in the office this Tuesday and Wednesday. She will be in on Monday and Thursday this week, 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.**

**Hand2Hand** We give a thank you to all who generously supported Hand2Hand this school year. May will be the last month to donate until school resumes. Due date is May 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for supporting this ministry. Outreach Committee

## Our Good Shepherd

The images in today's texts provide us with much food for thought and action. Psalm 23 tells of a shepherd who leads us to green pastures and refreshing waters, walks alongside us as we face challenging times, takes us to a table already set, and anoints us with oil to mark each of us as chosen. We are heard, seen, known, valued, and loved, and remain in the Shepherd's presence for all time.

Jesus' words in the gospel reading add to the image of a loving and caring shepherd. The shepherd calls each sheep by name, while the sheep follow because they recognize that voice. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows us well and calls each of us by name. Jesus also serves as the gate for the sheep, guarding and protecting us in the sheepfold, while also providing access to pastureland. This protection and access give us the space to be who we are, with no need to play games or pretend to be someone we are not. And when it comes right down to it, the Good Shepherd comes to give us abundant life—new life in relationship with God, others, and all creation.

The reading from Acts 2 provides an image of abundant life among the early Christians, a life with an extravagance of worship, fellowship, prayer, generosity, service to others, and thankfulness.

How does the image of the Good Shepherd sit with you? How do you picture the relationship between you and Jesus—with shepherd and sheep imagery, or something else? Where and how do you recognize the Good Shepherd's voice? Do you know someone who has abundant life in Christ—a life of faith, joy, and love? What would such a life look like for you, and for your faith community?

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

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**Social Activities Committee invites you to come to see the musical “Shrek” at the Dennison Center.** The date is planned for **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.** 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. We continue to study the book of Ezekiel.

**Faith books** are available in the Gathering Area. These books were read by Ray DePew. Pat (Ray's wife) entered the Church Triumphant on April 9<sup>th</sup>, kept them. Pat's children decided instead of throwing them out or giving them to strangers have offered them to you. Please feel free to take as many books and you would like. We thank Steve Wales (Pat's son) for providing these books for us.

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: 55 Views: 202  
 Weekly Giving: \$1,000.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02



Offerings received to date through March \$153,784.31  
 Offerings received in April + \$ 6,413.00  
 Year to date total of offerings \$160,197.31

**Grace Projects Goal \$30,000.00**  
 Received To Date - \$22,120.00  
**Total Needed \$ 7,880.00**

Given this week toward Non-Budget Outreach Funds: \$575.00  
 Given this week toward Grace Projects - Parking Lot fund: \$9,540.00 Easter Flower sale: \$70.00

**The Congregation Council invites you to contribute to the Parking Lot Cement Project. We reached our goal for matching funds. Thank you!**

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>.

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