

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
May 3, 2026

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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 before Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus tells the disciples that they will join him, but they claim that they do not know the way. With the disciples and all of us, Jesus says that we all know the way, because he shows us. What a gift Jesus gives us by offering that we are claimed and given new life by his action for each and every one of us.*

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Welcome

## Temple Talk

## Gathering Music

*Festive Fanfare*

**Michael W. Joy**

*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

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

**ELW 379**

## 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

- Ⓐ Let us pray...Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
- ☑ **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.**

**Special Music**                      *Siyahamba (South African Traditional)*                      arr. Sondra K. Tucker

## First Reading

**Acts 7:55-60**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**



## Second Reading

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation  
<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:  
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,  
"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup> and  
"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

📖 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 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

▣ The Resurrection Gospel from **John**.

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

▣ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

▣ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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## 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 *You Are the Light of the World*

words & music by Cathy Pino

1. You are the Light of the World.  
You are the Light of the World.  
So shine, shine, shine where you are.  
You are the Light of the World.
2. You are a city on a hill. (2x)  
So shine, shine, shine where you are.  
You are a city on a hill.
3. You are a candle in the dark. (2x)  
So shine, shine, shine where you are.  
You are a candle in the dark.
4. You are children of God. (2x)  
So shine, shine, shine where you are.  
You are children of God.
5. You are the Way, the Truth, the Life. (2x)  
So shine, shine, shine where you are.  
You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.

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.*

- ▲ God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw; Yankee Springs Bible Church in Middleville; Zion Lutheran Church Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.*  
Hear us, O God.
- ☑ **You give us new life.**

**A** God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. 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** God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort 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, 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.* Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Hear us, O God.

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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

☐ The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

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

## Offering Song

### *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*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.

*Congregation:*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ in the

u-ni-ty\_ of the Spir - it \_\_\_\_\_ all glo - ry and hon - or is

yours, O God, now and for - ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_

A - - - men. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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

*Tongues of Fire*

Carol R. Dare

*John 3:16*

T. & G. Nilson

## CHORUS

John three sixteen says that God so loved the world  
He gave his only begotten Son,  
That whoever believes in him will never die  
But have eternal life.

VERSE He is the way. He is the truth.

He is the life, so put your faith in  
Jesus Christ and your soul will never die.

REPEAT CHORUS & VERSE, then end with CHORUS

*I Received the Living God*

ELW 477

## 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**

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

**ELW 389**

## 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**

*Song of Praise*

**arr. John Dare**

## 9:30 am

**Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck**

**Cantor – Kate Watson**

**Lector – Mark Anton**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

**Usher – Doug Neeb**

**Fellowship - Diane Neeb**

**Bell Ringers – Kim Domke, Anita Shaw, Gayle Marsh, Liz Allarding, Alice Allarding, Shayna Gibbons, Raylan Gibbons, Alicia Devroy, Tyler Devroy, Ethan Devroy**

**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.**

**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

**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 Ezekie

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## Love, Love, Love

That's what it's all about! Jesus loves.

Jesus' love is a constant in scripture. From his humble birth to his teachings, parables, healing miracles, feeding of the multitudes, power over creation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus loves.

Some people wanted the Messiah to take a much different approach. They thought their savior would come as a strong military leader, but Jesus did not start a violent overthrow of the Roman Empire. He just could not and would not do anything in conflict with love. He gave himself up and loved until the very end. In his last breath on the cross, he forgave everyone involved in crucifying him. This is the depth of the amazing love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Stephen, "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), strove to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved. As he was being stoned to death, Stephen shouted, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (7:60).

Following Jesus was not easy for Stephen and other early Christians. It is not easy today. But in today's gospel reading, Jesus assures his followers—then and now—of three things. First, the great doors to a place with God will be open to us, in a house with many rooms. Second, he is the way, truth, and life, and by knowing him, we come to know God the Father. Third, we can ask him for anything. These are promises of Jesus' continuing care for us, for people of every time and place, and for all creation.

Jesus loves.

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 walks with us in our times of hardship. Let us celebrate that God cares for us and leads us in all our ways. God has chosen us and shows us the way to our heavenly dwelling, which has already begun here on earth.**

### Stewardship Information

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.

Attendance: 42

Views: 198

Weekly Giving: \$1,340.00

Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

Zion's contribution in April: \$5,706.57



Offerings received to date through March	\$153,784.31
Offerings received in April	+ <u>\$ 13,459.57</u>
Year to date total of offerings	\$167,243.88

<b>Grace Projects Goal</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
Received To Date	- <u>\$23,160.00</u>
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$ 6,840.00</b>

Given this week toward Grace Projects - Parking Lot fund: \$1,500.00

**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.

**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.

**Women of Faith** invites all women to join us Tuesday morning at church 11am – noon as we study Growing Older and Wiser in our Bible study. If you have to miss a day – it is okay – just join us when you can.