

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
May 10, 2026

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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

## 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

*Come, Thou Almighty King*

**ELW 408**

## 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.**

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 ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth.
- ☩ **In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

📖 Word of God, word of life.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20



Refrain



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>8</sup> Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.** ☒

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats.** ☒

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. ☒

**Second Reading**

**1 Peter 3:13-22**

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

📖 A reading from **1 Peter**:

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Hymnal Supplement pgs. 10-11*

*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 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

☐ The Resurrection Gospel from **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

☐ 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**

*Spirit of Gentleness*

**ELW 396**

*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.*

**A** God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saginaw; Cedar Creek Bible Church in Delton; Central United Methodist Church in Lake Odessa; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and 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.

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

**A** You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill 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*. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Hear us, O God.

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

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. 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

*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

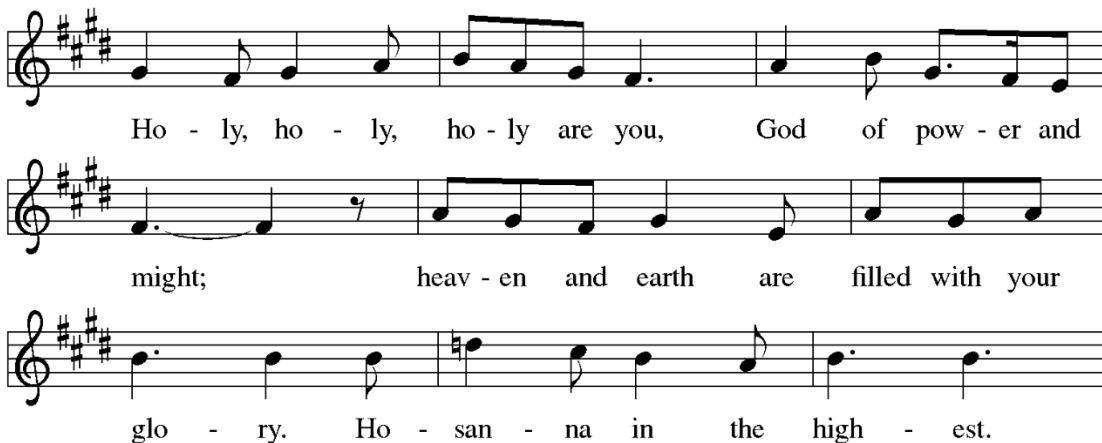
- Ⓟ The Lord be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
  
- Ⓟ Lift up your hearts.
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**
  
- Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Table Prayer

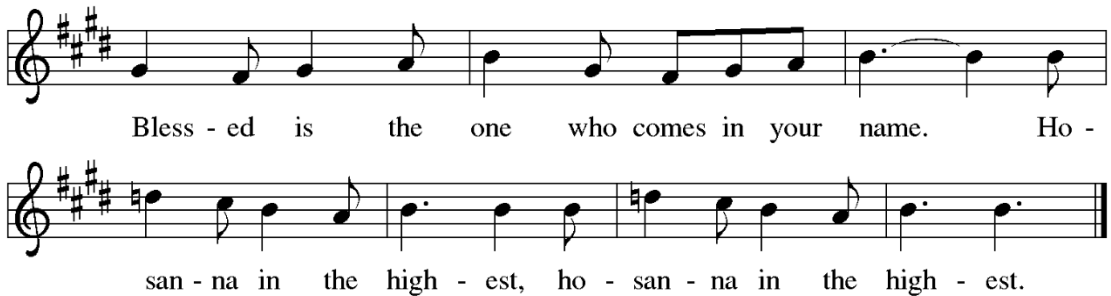
- Ⓟ It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 191



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:*

*Hymnal Supplement pgs. 17-20*



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

- Ⓟ 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.

*Congregation:*

A - men, Come Lord Je - sus; A -  
men, Come Lord Je - sus.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

- ☐ 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

- ☐ 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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Musical notation for the lyrics: "yours, O God, now and for - ev - er, A - - - men." The music is written on two staves in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff contains the lyrics "yours, O God, now and for - ev - er," and the second staff contains "A - - - men."

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

- P** Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- C** **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.
- C** **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**
- P** Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
 mer - cy on us.

Additional Verses:

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:  
 You are the way of justice and peace:  
 You are the way of mercy and love:  
 You are the bread of life for us all:  
 You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

*Final time:*

Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

*I Received the Living God  
 Children of the Heavenly Father*

ELW 477  
 ELW 781

## 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*

### Blessing

- Ⓐ 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.**

## Sending Song

*Oh, Sing to the Lord*

ELW 882

## 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 – Dave Neeb

Cantor – Anna Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Usher – Greg and Erin Franks

Fellowship - Jeanette Markwart

**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 nursery is available weekly during the worship service.**

**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

**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.

**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 guides us with a love of a parent who will never leave us orphaned.**

### Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 55	Views: 182
Weekly Giving: \$2,200.00	Budget Amount: \$4,363.02
Online Giving for April: \$3,139.03	



Offerings received to date through April	\$170,382.91
Offerings received in May	+ \$ 2,200.00
Year to date total of offerings	\$172,582.91

<b>Grace Projects Goal</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
Received To Date	- <u>\$26,380.00</u>
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$ 3,620.00</b>

Given this week toward Grace Projects - Parking Lot fund: \$3,220.00

**We THANK YOU for contributing to the Parking Lot Cement Project. We reached our goal for matching funds. Your generosity has been abundant. We are truly blessed by you, as a partner who has filled this ministry need for concrete to be in place before the new parking lot black top is put in place. We will update you when the cement construction project actually begins. This is an exciting time for all of us. God bless you!**

**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.

**Noisy Offering** collected today will benefit Barry County Cares. (Noisy Offering is collected the second Sunday of each month.)

### **The Perspective of Love**

It has been said that, on our journey of discipleship, each of us receives new eyeglasses. These glasses have a prescription that filters out all the cobwebs and distractions, giving us the ability to see everything through love. If we wonder what a particular scripture passage means, we read and interpret it through love. If we wonder how to make a big decision, we discern it through love. If we wonder how to respond to a challenging person or situation, we consider responses through the perspective of love.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus says to his disciples (John 14:15). Loving Jesus means keeping his commandments, and keeping his commandments means loving: loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and seeing our neighbors and ourselves in the same way our God of grace and forgiveness sees us.

We are not left on our own to maintain this perspective of love in all that we see, think, say, and do. Jesus promises that he and the Holy Spirit will not only be alongside us but will also live in us forever.

Jesus loves.

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

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