



The Third Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion

Grace Lutheran Church ~ ELCA

April 18, 2021

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Good morning & Welcome to Grace!

*Our mission is to invite and welcome all
to the fellowship of Christ in service to our community.*

***This is a house of praise and prayer, of worship and rejoicing!
We are glad you are with us for worship today, as we continue to
celebrate the Resurrection of our Messiah, and the promise
of new life that is ours because of his sacrificial love!***

***We offer a special welcome to our guests, and to all those
who are joining us remotely through Facebook Live or on YouTube.***

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP AT GRACE! Each week, prior to the reading of scripture, a special Children's Message is offered for our young ones. While we are not having the children come forward at this time, we will still include it in the service.

YOUR BULLETIN contains the worship service in its entirety, **and your parts are printed in bold type.**

YOU WILL NOTICE that we currently do not have any hymns included in the service. However, music is still an important part of our service! Please, enjoy listening to these musical offerings. However, for the health and safety of everyone in attendance, we do ask that you refrain from singing along. Thank you.

IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE SAVING GRACE SHOWN TO US IN THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION EACH WEEK. All are welcome at the Table. For those with us in person, you will see that each person has a small, plastic container of wine or juice and there is a plastic bag with a wafer inside for each person in your group. If you asked for a gluten free wafer, it will be in its own bag and will be marked as "GF".

FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING FROM HOME, please have a small glass of wine or juice and a small piece of bread available for all who are planning to commune. When we come to the Meal portion of the service, please follow along on the screen or in the bulletin. We will go through the Great Thanksgiving and the prayers and, after the Lord's Prayer, all will be invited to commune in unison – at Grace, and at home. We are grateful that we can celebrate together this very important part of our Christian worship service.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS about our worship service - generally or specifically in this time of pandemic - about Baptism or Communion, about what Lutherans believe, or even about Grace Lutheran Church, please do not hesitate to reach out to our pastor.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

GATHERING ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

“Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!”

ELW 377

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.
Amen

GREETING

The grace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Arr. Mark Hayes

WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 4 (*Read responsively: Plain font: pulpit side; **Bold font: organ side***).

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"**

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING

First John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Luke 24:32*):

Alleluia. Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures. ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON (*a moment of silent reflection follows the sermon*)

THE CREED ~ *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION ~ *We pray for the church, the world, and all in need.*

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. (*A brief silence.*)

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration, especially all those places near and dear to our hearts. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home, and move us to be a part of making that happen. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your justice and righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to those called to lead nations, states and local governments. May all of them seek to do what is best for those they serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Today we remember especially: the lonely and alone, those

dealing with COVID-19, those on our church prayer list, and everyone we lift up to you in our hearts (*silence for reflection*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you, both in our mutual love toward one another, and our bold witness to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Welcoming Host, as we gather around your Table, at your invitation, nourish and refresh us, that we may go out into the world, and answer your call to serve you and all that you have made. May our lives testify to your mercy, in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are, and we give you thanks for their lives and their witness among us. Make us certain of the peace you have promised, and the hope that, we, too, will join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In that hope, the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**

MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

This is normally the place in the service where we would collect the offering. We give thanks for your spirit of generosity and prayerfully ask that – if at all possible – you continue to be faithful to your financial commitment to Grace. Thank you again.

MUSICAL OFFERING *“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”* Arr. Bill Wolaver

OFFERING PRAYER (*Those moved to do so may stand.*)

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen

THE 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Amen

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE & THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia! The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

Alleluia! Amen

COMMUNION – This is the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

At this time, all are invited to partake of the Bread and Cup in place. Please hang on to your cup and the bag – there will be a bin for you to dispose of these items as you leave the service.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“We Who Once Were Dead”

ELW 495

During this short musical offering, you are invited to observe a moment of silent reflection on the gift of the Sacrament. Please remain in your seats. Thank you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Once all have received the meal*)

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SENDING ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **We will! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

ELW 389

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have a need, or if you know someone who does, please let the church office know! We are a community in Christ, and we are here to support, love and serve one another.

Don't Forget – We Still Need Your Reservations for Sunday Worship! We ask that you make your reservation by 5pm on Thursday. The reservation link is on our website, <http://www.gracelutheran.faith>, or you can call the church office (850-877-5423) and we'd be happy to help. Worship is also streamed online and the link for that is also on our website.

If You Need Assistance or Information, please contact the church office **by phone (850-877-5423) or email (graceluthch@earthlink.net)**. In the case of a pastoral care emergency, we ask that you contact Pastor Jenn on her cell at 850-800-7197. Thanks!

Deadline for Announcements - Please email announcements to Lisa Rubin in the church office at graceluthch@earthlink.net by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

The Chancel Flowers this week are given by Jim and Nancy Banks, in memory of John H. Banks and Joanne W. Banks; and by the Kallestads, in honor of granddaughter Seiya's birthday.

Zoom TextTalk with Pastor Jenn is held on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. The link is sent out weekly - we hope you'll join us.

Grace Notes Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication month. Please send submissions to Grace Notes Editor, Nick Gandy, at ngandyman@yahoo.com. Thank you!

The Relay for Life “Drive-Up Relay” will be held on Saturday, May 15th, from 4 – 7pm, at Tallahassee Community College. Every car gets 4 parking spaces, and you can bring lawn chairs, hang out, walk and dance to the music within your four spaces! You can also make an online donation to the Grace Relay Team by going to our Relay Website: [https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry\\$fr_id=99471](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry$fr_id=99471)

Manna on Meridian - You can support Manna through your prayers and monetary donations, as well as through continued donations of tuna (leave your cans in the box outside the Church Office door). Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry.

Doing Some Spring Cleaning? Please consider donating any new or gently used items to Goodwill, the Salvation Army or ECHO. These programs in our community offer help to those who need it – and they need our support! Thank you for your generosity and care!

Fellowship Via Zoom - If you are interested in participating, please contact Mary Grant at grantmlcic@hotmail.com or (609) 602-0155. We hope you'll join us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week at Grace, please remember in prayer:

Mike Bussell; Ginny Nervina; the family of Peter Nervina; Sam Rubin; the myriad of victims of gun violence these past few weeks, and the families of those who have been killed; Ed Mellon; Bill Pomidor; Reed Kallestad; Buddy Jacobs; Riley Littlefield; Gordon Evans and family; the family of Caden Staats; Gerry and the family of her grandson, Jaxson; Emily Noel; Jennifer Taylor; Joe Aubert; Molly Mojher; Kathy Bolling; Nancy Adams; Grant Gandy; Bill Owen; Bill Halpine; Nick Pleskovich; Rochelle Steinlauf; Gwen Carriere; Sallie Robinson and Kevin Robinson; Jackie Barksdale; Joe McRory; Maria Eckard; Beatriz Fernandez; Trevor Rogers; Jessica, Bridget, Jaxson; the family of Larry Lee; Anita and Ralph Braun; Jim and Wendy Akin; Jim and Nancy Banks; John and Theresa Fenimore; Pastor Jenn and Rob; Dan and Irene Poole, and family; Lindsey and family; Adrie Belcher, her daughters, Bailey & Paisley, and Adrie's half-brother, Jacob; the people of Grace Lutheran Church and our Congregational Council, especially our Nominating Committee; St. Stephen Lutheran Church and Pastor Tom Holdcraft; the Florida-Bahamas Synod and our Bishop, Pedro Suarez; the ELCA and our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton.

Please also lift up:

All the nations of the world and their leaders, that your wisdom, justice and peace may guide their actions.

The families in mourning for loved ones lost to COVID-19, in the United States and worldwide; all those currently dealing with this disease; medical professionals and first responders who risk their safety for the sake of others; all those involved in creating and distributing the vaccines.

The homeless and the hungry; military personnel and their families; those who are incarcerated, and are unable to have visitors, go to chapel, or participate in healthy social interaction; healing and answers for all those with chronic pain, disease process or illness; all those whose needs are known only to God.

If you would like to have someone included on the prayer list, please contact Lisa in the Church Office (graceluthch@earthlink.net or 850-877-5423) or our Prayer Team Leaders, Tina Frese: (frese@comcast.net) or Erik Robinson (robinsoe@flcourts.org).