

5th Sunday of Easter



April 28, 2024

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to worship with us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and pray that you will receive God's awesome GRACE, mercy and love as we receive Word and Sacrament, the means of grace!

We invite our guests and visitors to worship with us often! If you will, please complete a visitor information sheet and/or record your visit in the red attendance book found in each aisle. Visitor/Member Information sheets may be returned to the pastor or an usher.

The complete worship service is contained in this worship folder. Large print worship folders and Quiet Books for our very young worshipers are available from the ushers! We love having children in worship! Should parents have need of nursery during worship, our professionally staffed nursery for childcare is available. Please see an usher for directions.

Our worship space is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate those with hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician (at the rear left of the worship space) for a receiver, if desired. Printed copies of the sermon are available in the info kiosk, if desired.

Please remember to turn off or silence personal communication devices. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the worship space.

In accordance with the Biblical mandate and our Lutheran tradition, we seek to worship God "in Spirit and in truth...for these the Father seeks to worship him!" (John 4:23-24). If you are not familiar with liturgical worship, it is "the work of the people," as God speaks, the ministers speak and the congregation responds in a spoken, chanted and sung dialogue! Everything in our worship is focused on God and His incarnate, embodied presence in our midst! We pray that you will experience the Word made flesh as we worship today!

To establish and maintain a spirit of reverence, we remind worshipers to please greet one another and fellowship in the gathering space before entering the sanctuary, where others will be preparing their hearts and minds for worship. We appreciate your understanding!

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC embraces four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.

We invite you to learn more about our congregation at www.grace43081.org and the NALC at www.thenalc.org!

PRELUDE

Linda Hoch

"Partita on *Hyfrydol*" - arr. Charles Callahan

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful Father,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please turn toward the Processional Cross for the Entrance Hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

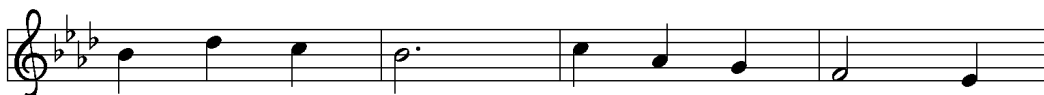
"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Liturgy of The Word

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING


P Christ is risen!

C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

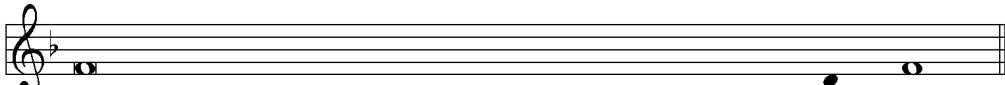
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

C **And also with you.**


KYRIE (*Mark 10: 47, Luke 17:13*)



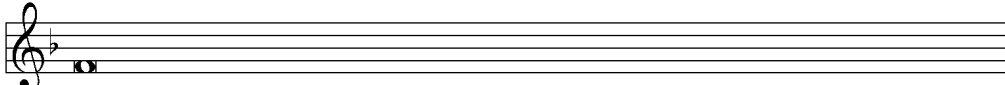
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



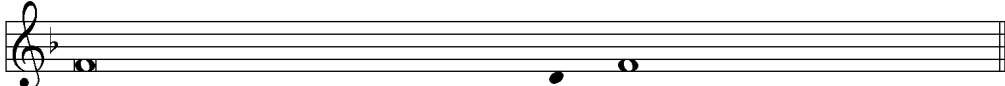
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



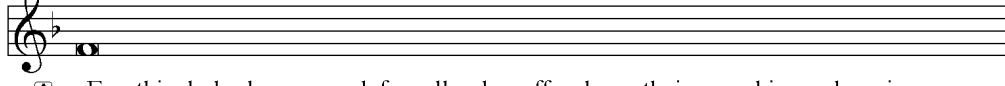
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



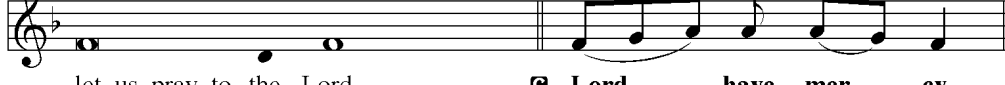
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. Ⓒ A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

Worthy is Christ” (*Revelation 5:9-12*)
Men sing part I, Women sing part II, and All sing “C”



Ⓒ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Ⓘ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Ⓒ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Ⓚ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☑ A - men

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Philip's journey led him to a road between Jerusalem and Gaza where he encountered an Ethiopian eunuch reading scripture from the prophet Isaiah. Philip seized the opportunity to explain the scripture to the Ethiopian and preach the Good News concerning Jesus to him. This spontaneous conversation led to the baptism of the Ethiopian man.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L The Word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

Refrain

Let ev - 'ry-thing that has breath praise the LORD.

Psalm Tone

L ¹Hallelujah! Praise God in his ¹holy temple;
 praise him in the firmament ¹of his power.
 C ²**Praise him for his ¹mighty acts;**
praise him for his ex- ¹cellent greatness. Refrain
 L ³Praise him with the blast ¹of the ram's horn;
 praise him with ¹lyre and harp.
 C ⁴**Praise him with tim- ¹brel and dance;**
praise him with ¹strings and pipe.
 L ⁵Praise him with re- ¹sounding cymbals;
 praise him with loud- ¹clanging cymbals.
 C ⁶**Let everything ¹that has breath**
praise the LORD. ¹Hallelujah! Refrain

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:1-21

The message here continues John's theme of love. Again, the emphasis is on actions that display love as the hallmark of divine love. No matter how eloquently we speak of love, if our actions are the antithesis of our words, then God's love is not in us. We are able to live such lives of love only as a response to the love which God has first lavished upon us.

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the

world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

Please stand as you are able.

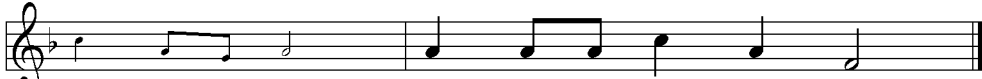
ALLELUIA VERSE (*John 6:68*)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

Jesus used the familiar image of a vine to describe the nature of our dependent relationship with him. Referring to himself as the true vine that gives life to and supports the entirety of the bush, Jesus declared that nothing good could be done apart from his life-giving presence.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

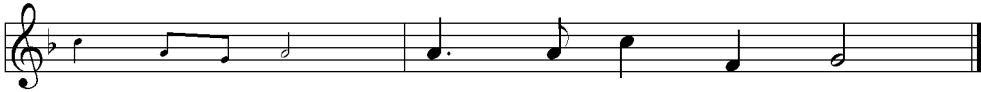


☪

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹{Jesus said,} "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



☪

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel

After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in
 all thy life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in

bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

THE NICENE CREED

**C 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;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

THE PRAYERS

A Rejoicing in Christ's victory over death and his glorious resurrection, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

A Lord, in your mercy;

C Hear our prayer.

P Almighty Father, with heaven and earth and all creation, we offer our prayers in the name of the one who gave us eternal life and joy, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

***You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.***

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING:

8:15 "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" - arr. Victor C. Johnson

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

11:00 "See What a Morning" - Keith Getty and Stuart Townend/ arr. Mary McDonald and Larry Shackley

Martha Crist - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL, LORD *(Psalm 104:14-15; Isaiah 25:6; 1 Corinthians 5:7)*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(2 Timothy 4: 22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS (Isaiah 6: 3; Matthew 21: 9)



☑ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

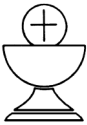
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE FRACTION *(Luke 24:30-31, 35; Acts 2:42)*

A time of silence...

P Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)
C Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Please be seated.



All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper, and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are welcome to commune this morning. Children who do not commune are invited forward to receive a blessing. You may receive the Communion Wine by taking a communion glass from the tray as it is offered to you.

As always, the common cup is offered for those who desire to use it. If you desire the common cup, please point to it as the individual cups pass by you.

Grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray.

After you have received, please place the empty communion glass in the basket provided

(Gluten-free hosts are available by telling the person giving the host.)

Private prayer before receiving Holy Communion: *O merciful Lord, I do not presume to come to your Table, trusting in my own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. I am not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose will it is always to have mercy. Make me, I pray you, worthy now to receive this Holy Communion. Grant me, gracious Lord, so to consume the very Body and Blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ in this Holy Sacrament, that He may evermore dwell in me, and I in Him, that my sinful body may be made clean by His Body, and my soul washed through His most precious Blood. Amen.*

Private prayer after receiving Holy Communion: *Almighty God, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that as I have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, He may abide in me, and I in Him, and that all who have received may be filled with the power of His endless life. By your grace, help me to walk worthy of my calling, and to learn to bring glory to your name in all things. Amen.*

LAMB OF GOD (John 1: 29)



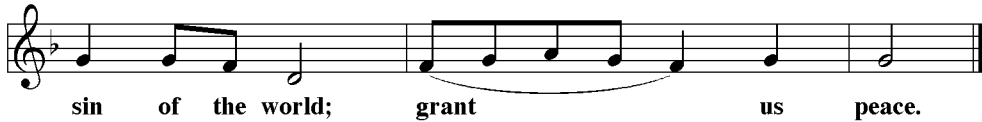
☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



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



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



COMMUNION MUSIC

Martha Crist - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ

"Lamb of God" - Twila Paris/ arr. Mary McDonald and Larry Shackley

After all have communed, please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Almighty God, who gives the true Bread which comes down from heaven, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood may abide in Him and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



RECESSIONAL HYMN

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
 hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

THE RITE OF SENDING

- A Christ is risen!
- C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

- Children Go in peace, serve the Lord!
- C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Linda Hoch

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" - arr. Keith Kolander

Offering: An offering plate will be placed by the baptismal font for offerings to be presented during the offering procession. Offerings may be placed in the plate before or after the service.

FIRST COMMUNION

Five Grace youth have received instruction for First Communion this weekend and expressed their desire to join us as we gather around the Lord's table in the coming month. We celebrate with them and their families during this special time:

- Hannah Noelle Laderman*
- Alison Lynn Milliner*
- Gabriel Richard Young*
- Philip John Young*
- Anna Isabelle Young*



On Thursday, April 25, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Alison Lynn Milliner, daughter of Jason and Angela Milliner. This Child of God is sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Flowers are given by...

Steve and Sue Miller in honor of God's many blessings.

Remember in our prayers... Joe Moleno, Harper Jean Tucker, Chuck Dettmann, Mary Ross, John Hicks, Evelyn Boughton, Betty Lou Miliner, Grace Sima, Jan Perry, Bob Bower, Janice Hardick, the family of Ron Kerlee, the family of Don Slemmer

Upcoming Events

April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Member classes at 9:30am and 12:30pm (New Member Welcome: May 5) 12:30pm– Y&F Event: VBS Decoration Creation Day #2
May 2	7am: WARM Prayer Breakfast @ The Medallion
May 3 & 4	Ohio Mission Region Convocation @ St. John Grove City (Registration open now)
May 5	New Member Welcome (both services)
May 12	Red Geranium Orders due for Day of Pentecost
May 17	Y&F Event: Columbus Clippers Baseball game
May 19	Confirmation Sunday Music Sunday Y&F Event: Graduation Sunday
May 31 & June 1	"Weaving a Threefold Cord" @Westerville North High School
June 10-13	Y&F Event: Scuba VBS, 5:30-8:30pm
July 20	Y&F Event: Family Hike and Picnic

Notes & News

WELCOME, GUESTS! We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and sign the Pew Pad to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

WELCOME



Please keep Cathy Burner-Kerlee and family in your prayers, as her husband Ron Kerlee passed away April 21, 2024.
Romans 14: *Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.*

Service Recording: The recorded 8:15am service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.

Intercessory Prayer Team: How can we pray for you?



- * . . . the funeral, when everyone has left and your emotions held at bay come crashing in.
- * . . . the email announcing a new round of layoffs appears in your inbox.
- * . . . the Doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing else we can do.
- * . . . after the baby comes home, demanding more than was ever imagined possible.

The Grace Church IPT is here to pray for any need you have.

Confidentiality of your prayer request is very important to the intercessors. Each prayer request is prayed every day for 2 weeks by the IPT. If you would like more prayer time just fill out another request form.

Ways to ask for prayer. Your name is optional.

- Prayer Chest - pens and request forms are at the back of the church.
- Use the Grace website: grace43081.org – the link is found on the first page, top right side, “Prayer Request”.

Let the IPT join you in asking God for your need.

Congregational Visitation by Pastor Wendel: Upon the beginning of his ministry at Grace in early December, Pastor Wendel has been focused on visiting every home to become better acquainted with all who are involved at Grace Lutheran Church. Council member, Becky Seifert, is scheduling and coordinating these visits. You may contact Becky at seifertbecky@yahoo.com or 614-378-6023. Should you need to contact Pastor Wendel for a last minute change, feel free to call or text him at 719-650-8171. For anyone who may prefer to meet in pastor’s office, please let Becky know when scheduling!

Flowers for 2024: Flowers have been a tradition in worship spaces for generations. They bring beauty and nature into our service and remind us of God's wonderful creation.



They can honor a loved one, celebrate a special event or give glory to God. There are still dates available to sign up for flowers for the sanctuary. Since the suggested donation of \$30 does not cover the entire cost, the flowers are to be enjoyed by all, first in the service and the week following in the gathering space. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line through our giving page or call the office.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vision Statement: To nurture Youth and Family in Christ through Bible based teaching, music, activities and community outreach.

Youth and Family Events:



- April 28– Decoration Creation Day #2
- May 17- Columbus Clippers Baseball game
- May 19- Graduation Sunday
- June 10-13 Scuba Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:30
- July 20- Family Hike and Picnic
- The rest of the year is coming soon.

The Sunday Worship of the Lutheran Church: Have you wondered why we do what we do in

Sunday worship? Have you been curious about the history and development of Christian worship from the early church life today? Pastor Wendel is leading an in-depth 6 week study at 6:30pm at the church, which began Monday, April 8. Questions? Call or text Pastor Wendel 719-650-8171.

The Women's Bible Study: We are studying The Gospel of John: Part 1 by Tony Evans.



Description: Where do you turn when the world around you grows dark? In this study of the Gospel of John, Dr. Tony Evans encourages us to turn to Christ by reminding us of the two purposes for the beloved disciples book- that we would believe in Jesus and find life in his name. Despite what our culture may argue, there is only one hope that is truly trustworthy and that is our Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you don't already have a RightNow Media account contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org.

Adult Bible Class: "The Seven Mountains" Every nation has seven primary areas of culture, or mountains, that are meant to be the format, or context in which we receive God's ever-increasing Kingdom. They are Media, Family, Arts & Entertainment, Economy, Religion, Education, and Government. How can we, as Christians, effectively impact the areas of culture in which we have influence or a passion for? Join the class for a study on the "Seven Mountains" beginning on April 28 at 9:45 in the fellowship hall. And is facilitated by Bill Kulju.



HELP WANTED NEEDED! THE SECRET TO THE PAST SUCCESSES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR VOLUNTEERS - ADULTS AND OLDER TEENS THAT CAN RELATE TO THE YOUNGSTERS ATTENDING. - Crew Leaders: Elementary- An integral part of VBS, leading kids through VBS each day. (10 adults needed)- Crew Leaders: Preschoolers- An integral part of VBS, leading kids through VBS each day. (5 adults needed)- Assistant Leaders: Rising 6th graders thru adults to assist Crew Leaders and Station Leaders (15 volunteers needed) VBS IS A GREAT CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR GRACE LUTHERAN. Sign up in the Gathering Space or Call Sarah Odum in the Grace office. 614-882-3026



Spring Graduate Recognition: On Sunday, May 19 our high school and college graduates will be recognized at Sunday Service. We also highlight those young people in the June Voice of Grace. We request that you send a photo and brief bio of your sons, daughters and grandchildren, including the school they are graduating from, their activities and their plans for the future to Tom Seamon, Molly King or the office **no later than Sunday, May 12**. Thanks so much and congratulations to you and your graduate(s).



Scuba VBS Registration is now OPEN! Monday, June 10 to Thursday, June 13, 5:30-8:30pm kids dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS,

kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!
Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2024gracevbs>

Vacation Bible School Donation Requests: The VBS donation board is up in the Gathering Space. Check back each week as items are added leading up to VBS.

- **Decoration Creation Day #2 for VBS is TODAY at 12:30pm. Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 11am service.**
- Watch in the coming weeks for items needed for VBS stations, as we dive head first into creating a memorable VBS, immersing kids in the Word and discovering with living water is really all about!

RightNow Media: GRACE'S VIDEO LIBRARY CONTAINS OVER 10,000 TITLES Bible studies, leadership aids and kid shows are available to you in Grace's study library at NO CHARGE! The videos are suitable for all ages and stages of life and can be viewed on any device wherever you may be. Family members can have their own account. Take advantage of this service provided by the church. Molly (m.king@grace43091.org) can help you set up your free account and put you into the system. Many members and study leaders make use of this gift. If you haven't tried it, give it a shot. You are going to like it.



Choirs at Grace:



- **Grace Youth Choir** rehearsals are part of the Sunday School opening which takes place Sundays from 9:30-9:50am in the 2nd floor Sunday School room. Contact Jeff Daubenmire, Director of Music Ministries.
- **Grace Chancel Choir** rehearsals are 7:00-8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jeff Daubenmire with questions or interest in singing.
- **Grace Ringers Bell Choir** rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:15-7PM. Contact Maria Laderman with questions or interest in ringing.

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAYS *Let all that you do be done in love". (1 Corinthians 16:14)*



WARM
Westerville Area Resource Ministry

April Shopping List: Mustard; BBQ Sauce; Jello/ Pudding Mixes – Sugar Free and Regular; Juices – Apple, Cranberry, Grape, Tomato; Soup – Bean or Tomato; Tomato Paste or Sauce; Green Beans, Corn
****LOW SALT ONLY****; Cereal; Kids Diapers – sizes 4,

5, 6; Hand/Soft soap; and Fabric Softener. We cannot accept food that has reached its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to WARM. Make Checks Payable to: Grace Lutheran Church, memo notation for WARM. Blessings to all who are making this a part of your regular tithes and offerings.

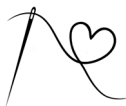
A Handup Volunteer Opportunities for WARM:

- WARM is looking for volunteers to help **Stamp Out Hunger!** If you are interested in

helping the Westerville Post Office with their annual food drive, please let Julia (email below) know. Volunteers are needed from 2:30-4:00 on Saturday, May 11th at the US Post Office at 617 McCorkle Blvd. Email julia@warmwesterville.org.

- Are you an ardent recycler? Enjoy helping the planet and making a difference at WARM? Consider helping us with our efforts to **recycle plastic films and wraps** by taking a load of plastic from WARM to a drop off facility (Meijer, Kroger or Kohl's) each week. If you are interested in helping in this way, please let me know, and I will connect you with Chuck, our recycling guru!!
- If you or someone you know are looking for a great part-time summer job, please consider applying for the **Kids Lunch Club** program! If you have questions, please reach out to Delaney at delaney@warmwesterville.org and find out more details and job descriptions on our website.
- WARM is looking for a volunteer **Medical Professional** (doctor or nurse) to help onsite for our upcoming **5K race** this September. Please let me know if you qualify and might be willing to help!

The Grace Stitchers have planned a meeting Tuesday, April 23, 1-3pm meeting in Rose Garden 2, to focus on the Quiet Books that are available to young children during services. Jeanice Alexander was a part of creating them 19yrs ago and has been lovingly maintaining them ever since. At this time Jeanice needs to pass on this ministry and It is our privilege to take it over. We will focus on these 11 books to becoming familiar with them and all the supplies Jeanice gave us to maintain them. Please join us if you are interested in helping with this ministry or in the others projects the Grace Stitchers are active in - no RSVP needed! Check out our Little Dresses for Africa closet in the gathering space and share the happiness they will bring to the little girls who will receive them! Questions regarding the Grace Stitchers? Please call or email Vanessa Stewart 614-588-2712, vschpn55@gmail.com.



HOSPITALITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY is OPEN! The Nursery is open Sunday mornings during both services and the Sunday School hour. Trained, professional sitters are present every week to care for your children, ages 6 and younger. Questions? Molly King, 614-882-3026 or m.king@grace43081.org.



Loaves and Fishes café is OPEN! Please stop in between services for a drink and a snack! There is a sign-up sheet in the café if you are interested in helping. Please call Vanessa Stewart, 614-588-2712 with any questions or concerns.

MUSIC NOTES

“Partita on Hyfrydol” – arr. Charles Callahan

HYFRYDOL is the tune for the hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.” This hymn first appeared under the heading “Jesus, show us thy salvation” in Charles Wesley’s (1707-1788) pamphlet *Hymns for those that seek, and those that have Redemption in the Blood of Jesus Christ* (1747). It had appeal from the beginning because so few hymns in those days expressed “the love of God.” It also presents the Wesleyan doctrine of “Christian perfection” through an experience of “sanctification.”

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace” – arr. Victor C. Johnson

This arrangement is based on an anonymous text that is usually called the “Prayer of Saint Francis,” a widely known Christian prayer for peace. It is often associated with the Italian Saint Francis of Assisi (c. 1182-1226), but the prayer in its present form has not been traced back further than 1912 when it first appeared in French in a small spiritual magazine called *La Clochette* (The Little Bell), published by a Catholic organization in Paris named *La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe* (The League of the Holy Mass.)

“See What a Morning” – Keith Getty and Stuart Townend/ arr. Mary McDonald and Larry Shackley

This song by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend conveys the immediacy of the Easter morning experience, and how that morning changed history forever. The song is also a response of praise as one realizes the amazing consequence of Christ’s resurrection for our lives, drawing one into relationship with the triune God.

“Lamb of God” – Twila Paris/ arr. Mary McDonald and Larry Shackley

In the traditional *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God), the weight falls on what God does and communal petition and response. In Twila Paris’ (b. 1958) arrangement, what God does is present but personalized and individualized so that the emphasis falls on the “sweet” Lamb of God, his “precious” blood, and the individual’s emotive love in response.

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen” – arr. Keith Kolander

This hymn by Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009) was created at the request of the editors of *With One Voice* (1995). He was asked to pull together the themes and images of Easter. In his text trumpets, light, splendor, Lamb, the Emmaus road, eyes opened, the story, the breaking of bread, vine and branches, joy, the city of God, saints, angels, and the whole creation tumble out in an eschatological alleluia.



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This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace’s online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.



“Weaving a Threefold Cord”

“A THREEFOLD CORD ISN'T EASILY BROKEN.”
- ECCLESIASTES 4:12

A gathering of Jesus' followers of all ages; as well as those seeking Jesus, or who want to know more.

Featuring **TOMMY BOWDEN**

Former Head Football Coach Tulane & Clemson Universities

Friday, May 31, 2024, 7:00pm- 9:00pm

FREE (Registration Required)

Westerville North HS Auditorium, 950 County Line Road, Westerville, OH 43082

And Meet Tommy...

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 8:30am – 10:00am

Ticketed Event: \$15/person

Continental Breakfast Included

Westerville North HS Commons, 950 County Line Road, Westerville, OH 43082

- Keynote Speaker
- Amazing Music
- Prayers



Both events sponsored by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in coordination with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)



Non-perishable food donations will be collected at each event benefiting Westerville Area Resource Ministry. WARM will also receive 10% of all monetary donations.



For additional information and registration for May 31 and ticketing for the June 1 breakfast:
www.Grace43081.org





Serving Today

OFFICIATING/ PREACHER	The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel
ASSISTING MINISTER	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Jeff Daubenmire
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
CANTOR	Peggy Jones
LECTOR	8:15 Christine Kotik 11:00 Fred Pfanz
ACOLYTE	8:15 Lauren Place 11:00 Emily Odum
COMMUNION	8:15 Regina Place
ASSISTANT	11:00 Sue Monroe
GREETERS	8:15 Don Reiter 11:00 Verna Kreachbaum
USHERS	8:15 Lisa Kuhar, Kathy Haegele, Vanessa Stewart 11:00 Jim Claflin, Dave Fuhrman, Paul Hotchkiss
ALTAR GUILD <i>Team 1</i>	Linda Seamon, Cheryl Bush, Andrea Bush, Jean Claflin, Dorothy Crain, Denise Reynard, Lou Swanson, Barb and Tom Moser
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush, Brice Graves
NURSERY ATTENDANTS	Michelle Ulrich, Cassidy Reese



This Week at Grace: April 28-May 5, 2024

April 28

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Pr. David Wendel

- 8:15 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am New Member Class #1 (Rose Garden 2 & 3)
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School
- 9:45 am Adult Learning, High School Sunday School, and Confirmation
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:30 pm New Member Class #2 (Rose Garden 2 & 3)
- 12:30 pm VBS Decoration Creation Day #2 (Fellowship Hall)

MON

- 6:30pm Worship of the Lutheran Church Study (Fellowship Hall)

TUES

- 1-3pm Grace Stitchers
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

WED.

- 10:30 am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm Grace Ringers Bell Choir (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm Grace Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURS

- 1:00 pm Art and Environment Meeting
- 7:00 pm Music and Worship Meeting (Loaves and Fishes Café)

FRI.

- Ohio Mission Region Convocation @ St. John, Grove City
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT

- Ohio Mission Region Convocation @ St. John, Grove City
- 9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

May 5

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Pr. David Wendel

- 8:15 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Youth Sunday School
- 9:45 am Adult Learning, High School Sunday School, and Confirmation
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:30 pm Youth and Family Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

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GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westerville, Ohio

100 East Schrock Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081

Phone: (614) 882-3026

Pr. David Wendel: (719) 650-8171

E-mail: office@grace43081.org

Website: www.grace43081.org

<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 115 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for four AA groups.

Vision Statement: We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.