

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!*



By Grace you have been saved!

*Everyone is Welcome!
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,
Let us rejoice together!*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

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.

P: Most merciful God,

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

Kyrie: **C: response... "Lord, have mercy.**

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

See Insert

The First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

See Insert

Psalms 22:25-31

See Insert

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

See Insert

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

See Insert

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P:The Gospel of the Lord”

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

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.**

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather the harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana. Hosana. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on
us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy
on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us
peace.**

Distribution

**P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.**

C: Amen

**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has
done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts
of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Prayer – P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

Dismissal

We pray always for . . .

*Robert Armknecht, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels,
Mary Goudie, Bruce Gerking, Axl Walters,
our military men and women, their families and their leaders.*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Erick, Diana & Meshack, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania.



Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before
its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth."

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31; tone 5



From you comes my praise
in the ¹ great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the sight of those
who ¹ fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD
give praise!
May your hearts ¹ live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD;

continued

all the families of nations
shall bow ¹ before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs ¹ to the LORD,
who rules o- ¹ ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth
shall bow ¹ down in worship;
all who go down to the dust,
though they be dead,
shall kneel be- ¹ fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants

shall ¹ serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim
to genera- ¹ tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance
to a people ¹ yet unborn,
saying to them,
"The ¹ LORD has acted!"

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of

God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so 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 reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those

who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*We recognize our Grace Lutheran
High School Graduates –
Mitchell Brinkman and Ashlei McDonald*

Today 5/2/21

Worship with communion – 8:30 a.m.

Saturday 5/8/21

JCC & SDA Graduation Ceremonies

NEXT SUNDAY 5/9/21

Mother's Day

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

TODAY, May 2nd is the Talmage Fire & Rescue Pancake Breakfast. They will be serving until 1:00 p.m. with a Free Will Donation. Eat in or take out available.

*May 2nd (today) will be the last Sunday School –
Grab N Go style for the 20/21 school year. There is a
basket at the back of the church with individual packets of
Sunday School materials for you to take home.*

BASKETS OF PROMISE

We are collecting the following items that will be used to assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will end the collection on Mother's Day as we honor these mothers by helping them ensure health for themselves and their families with the assistance of these kits.

TODAY – Toothbrushes (adult size)

May 2 - Combs and Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional).

*May 9 - **Mother's Day** - this will be the last Sunday of the gathering, so you can bring any of the items.*

Bars of Soap (4-5 oz.) Any brand in the original wrapping.

Bath Towels (lightweight, maximum size 52" x 27", dark colors are recommended).

Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the south office. You may email the church office grace68329@gmail.com NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church) 402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)