

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to*

The Great Thanksgiving

BLESSED
are
those who
HAVE NOT SEEN
and yet
have
BELIEVED

- John 20:29 -

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 16, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Thine Is the Glory" LBW # 145

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness Page 77

Kyrie Page 78

Hymn of Praise Page 81

Prayer of the Day See Insert

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 See Insert

Psalms 16 See Insert

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 See Insert

Gospel Response Page 83

Gospel: John 20:19-31 See Insert

Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Now the Green Blade Rises" LBW # 148

Nicene Creed Page 84

Prayers of the Church Page 85

Offering/Offertory Page 86

Offertory Prayer Page 87

The Great Thanksgiving Page 88

The Lord's Prayer Page 91

Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer Page 92

Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn Verses 1-4 and verse 8 LBW # 352

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"

We carry the "light" out into the world! Depart to serve!



Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I
will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my
tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to
Hades,
or let your Holy One experience
corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways
of life;
you will make me full of gladness
with your presence.'

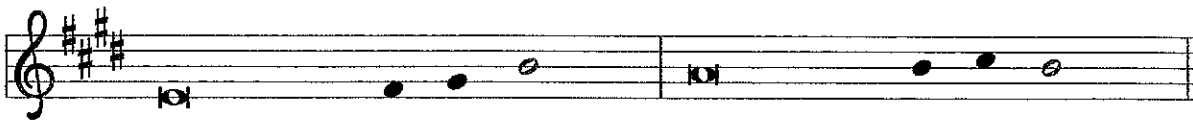
²⁹"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience
corruption.'

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Psalm

Psalm 16; tone 4



Protect me, O God,
for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD,
"You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

²All my delight is in the godly
that are in the land,
upon those who are noble
among the people.

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴I will not pour out drink offerings
to such gods,
never take their names up on my lips.

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who hold my lot.

⁶My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

continued

⁸I have set the LORD al-¹ ways before me;
because God is at my right hand,
I shall ¹ not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad,
and my spir-¹ it rejoices;
my body also shall ¹ rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me
¹ to the grave,
nor let your holy one ¹ see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the ¹ path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand
are pleasures for-¹ evermore.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that

the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark

of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

We pray always for . . .

*Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass,
Eugene Rosenthal, Travis Thomas & Haleigh Werner*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Anna, Vanessa, Meshack & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring
in Tanzania.*

*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*

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

Today 4/16/23

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday 4/18/23

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 4/19/23

Confirmation – 4:00 p.m.

Friday 4/21/23

Tower Echoes Deadline

Next Sunday 4/23/23

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement
following worship ☺*

*Please be sure to sign up for a couple of Sundays of
Worship Duty – sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.*

Easter Lilies have been given this year

*by
Their Family*

*In Honor of
Louis & Grace Bentzinger*

*by
Kris Ebeler
Dean & Jody Wellensiek
Kate & Russ Dietz
Gayleen Eden
Carl & Sarah Purcell
Arlene Panko
Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ
Eleta Eisenhower*

*In Memory of
Chuck Ebeler
Our Parents
Our Grandparents & Russ's Dad
Mike & Our Parents
Our Parents & Grandparents
Butch & other family members
Our Parents, Herb & Barb
David & Jill*

BASKETS OF PROMISE

*The Women of Grace are again sponsoring the "Baskets of Promise" project for
Lutheran World Relief. This has been a successful project and we thank everyone
who participated in the past and again this year.*

*For 5 weeks we will be collecting a different item that will be used to assemble the
items for the Personal Care Kits. We will end the collection on Mother's Day as we
honor these mothers by helping them ensure health for themselves and their
families by being able to use these kits that we provide for them.*

April 16 - Bars of Soap (4-5 oz.) Any brand in the original wrapping.

*April 23 - Bath Towels (lightweight, maximum size 52" x 27", dark
colors are recommended).*

April 30 - Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

May 7 - Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional).

*May 14 - **Mother's Day** - this will be the last Sunday of the gathering,
so you can bring any of these items.*

The above collection dates are suggestions. Items can be brought at any time.