

*Grace Lutheran Church*

*Welcomes you to*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

THE *Lord*  
IS MY  
*Shepherd*  
I SHALL NOT WANT.

**PSALM 23:1**

*Everyone is Welcome!*

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

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

LBW Hymn # 128

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!”

Brief Order for Confession

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Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

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“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Prayer of the Day

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First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

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Psalm 23

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Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

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Gospel Response

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Gospel: John 10:11-18

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Children’s message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LBW Hymn # 476

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the Church

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Offering

Offertory “I Love to Tell the Story” Verse 1-3

LBW Hymn 390

Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord’s Prayer

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Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn

LBW Hymn # 144

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

We carry the “light” out into the world! Depart to serve!



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

**Acts 4:5-12**

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,<sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has

been healed,<sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

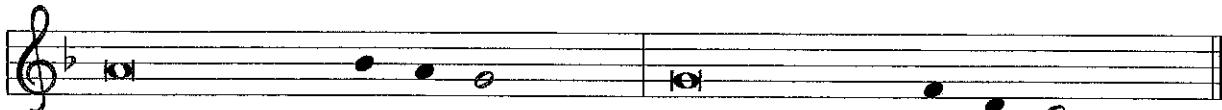
‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

## Psalm

**Psalm 23; tone 2**



**1** The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**2** The LORD makes me lie down

**1** in green pastures  
and leads me be-  
**1** side still waters.

**3** You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right  
pathways **1** for your name's sake.

**4** Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I shall **1** fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they **1** comfort me.

**5** You prepare a table before me  
in the presence **1** of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil,  
and my cup is **1** running over.

**6** Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me  
all the days **1** of my life,  
and I will dwell  
in the house of the **1** LORD  
forever.

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved,

if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

## Gospel

## John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down

my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**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 . . .***

*Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Becky Knake & Haleigh Werner*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

*Winfreda, Juliet, Vanesa & 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](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

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

**Today 4/21/24**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

**Monday 4/22/24**

*Tower Echoes Deadline*

**Wednesday 4/24/24**

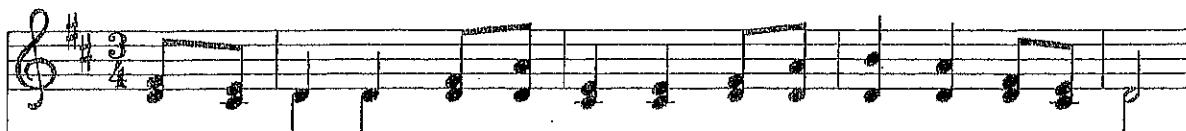
*Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.  
Adult Education @ Grace Lutheran – 7:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 4/28/24**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*Senior members if you wish to share a meal with our Kids for Christ on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, please call the church @ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.*

## 843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness [H]



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris -'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de -mons with a pierc -ing, two -edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis -ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des -ert's burn-ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.



## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The RSVPs are arriving! Currently, we have guests joining us from as far away as Arizona, Florida, and California and as close as Elk Creek, Iowa, and Kansas! If you haven't registered yet, please do so and encourage your family to also join us in the celebration.

During the first two Sundays of April, we raised \$900 for meals. We're estimating \$2,825 for 225 adult and 25 youth meals. This continues to be a great start and we thank you for your donations.

Every Sunday in April a receptacle will be placed on the back table of the church sanctuary for donations for the meal expense. Any and all donations will go towards the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration meal.

**Special Request:** If anyone has a Grace Lutheran Christmas Eve picture, please give it to Andrea Eggleston. Thank you!

- The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee