

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*



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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Now the Green Blade Rises" LBW Hymn # 148

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Hymn of the Day LBW Hymn # 132

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

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Offertory "I Love to Tell the Story" Verse 1 LBW Hymn 390

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn LBW Hymn # 150

"Make Songs of Joy"

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



Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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

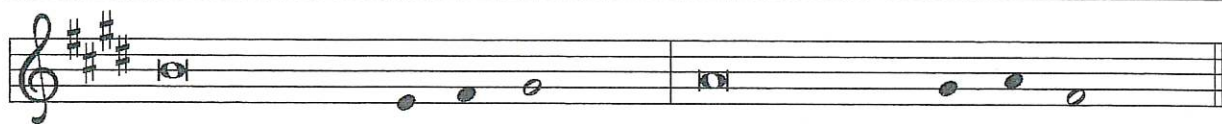
Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon

them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm

Psalm 133; tone 10



How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred
live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head,
flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
flowing down
upon the collar of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon
flowing down upon the
hills of Zion.

For there the LORD
has commanded the blessing:
life forevermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1—2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we

declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no

continued

darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us

from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Becky Knake & Haleigh Werner

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Winfrida, 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*

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

Today 4/7/24

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Tanzania Vision Trip Presentation during fellowship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Monday 4/8/24

Bible Study – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday 4/10/24

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

8th Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Adult Education @ Grace Lutheran – 7:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 4/14/24 Rogation Sunday

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 10th, please call the church
@ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.*

Tanzania Vision Trip

Carl and Sarah Purcell will share their Tanzania Vision Trip experiences today in the basement during fellowship. They will share what they learned about the special relationship the Nebraska Synod has with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Northern Diocese.

GO AND...

TELL THE STORY

Jesus isn't in the tomb anymore - God is on the loose! God is active and up to something! The story of Easter is an ongoing one, similar to the story of our own faith. Our response as disciples is to Go and.... to go out, go share, go proclaim, and to go tell the story.

Questions to Consider:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories?
- Is there a prop or tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?
- How will you GO and tell the story?

Prayer: Master Storyteller, your stories seem almost unbelievable. Open us to recognize your patience, deep love, and grace. Help me be a storyteller. Amen.

Suggested Song: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org

75th Anniversary Celebration Meal

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