

*Grace Lutheran Church*

*Welcomes you to*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*Sing to the LOR<sup>D</sup>  
a new SONG, for he has  
done marvelous things!*

*- Psalm 98:1*

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

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

LBW Hymn # 359

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Brief Order for Confession

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Kyrie

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Psalm 98

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Gospel Response

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Gospel: John 15:9-17

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Children’s message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LBW Hymn # 143

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

Nicene Creed

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Offering

Offertory

WOV Hymn 723

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” Verse 1

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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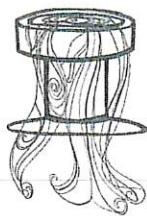
Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn

LBW Hymn # 551

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

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



# Today's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

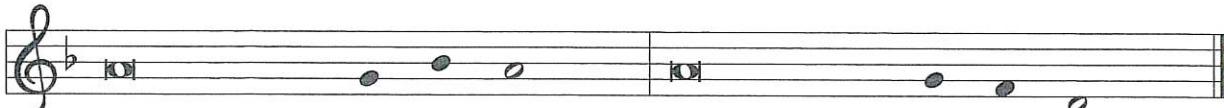
Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling

God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

## Psalm

Psalm 98; tone 9



Sing a new song to the LORD,  
who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm  
have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.  
<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known  
your victory,  
you have revealed your  
righteousness  
in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember  
your steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory  
<sup>1</sup> of our God.  
<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD,  
<sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice,  
and sing.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with the harp,  
with the harp and the  
<sup>1</sup> voice of song.  
<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound  
<sup>1</sup> of the horn  
shout with joy  
before the <sup>1</sup> king, the LORD.  
<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar,  
and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it,  
the world and those  
who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.  
<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers <sup>1</sup> clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy  
before the LORD,  
who comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world  
with righteousness  
and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And

this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## Gospel

## John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you

do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

# GO AND...

BE CHURCH

What does it mean to be church? The Holy Spirit is moving and blowing through, with, and for God's people. To Go and... means we pray, listen, share our story, serve with neighbors, ask, be honest, be present, rest, have the conversation, be intentional, tell the story, and be the church. Everybody has something to offer – Let's Go!

## Questions to Consider:

- If you overheard someone talking in the grocery store about your congregation/ministry site, what do you hope people are saying?
- Use your imagination! What is your big dream for your congregation? (No limits!)
- What gifts, talents, and expertise do you hold and how can you share?
- I am going to Go and be church by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Prayer:** Holy God who gathers and sends us, we give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Equip us, give us language to proclaim the Good News, and empower us to GO forth into the world. Amen

**Suggested Song:** Go to the World (ACS 991)

*Learn More at [www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)*

The Luther rose was designed by Martin Luther, the Luther Coat of Arms (pictured at right) has become the world-wide symbol of the Church of the Augsburg Confession, commonly known as the Lutheran Church. The Luther Rose, also known as the Luther Seal, is easily the most recognized symbol for Lutheranism, and for good reason. Martin Luther personally oversaw the creation of this symbol. It provides a beautiful summary of his faith, a faith that is common to all Christians, of every place and every time.

Here is how Luther explained the meaning of his seal:

"Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. 'For one who believes from the heart will be justified' (Romans 10:10a). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. 'The just shall live by faith' (Rom. 1:17b) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious, and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen."<sup>\*</sup>



## **Rite of Confirmation**

Sharley Thompson and Kael Fricke will be confirmed May 12 at the 8:30 a.m. worship service. The parents of Sharley are Chris & Dawn Thompson. The parents of Kael are Casey & Emily Fricke.

## **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. We will be collecting items that will be used to assemble the Personal Care Kits until 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.*

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

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

*Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)*

*Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional).*

***Mother's Day will be the last Sunday of the gathering, but items can be brought at any time.***

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

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 165 adults and 11 youth have registered for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! We're excited to welcome back special guests Sandy Olson, Cheryl Thorberg, and Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester-Beyer who plan to celebrate with us. We are still accepting reservations. If someone you know hasn't registered, please encourage them to do so.

Regarding the celebration meal, there was \$1,800 raised during the April campaign. Thank you. The committee is grateful for your generosity.

Starting May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be asking for donations of pastries and fruit for the coffee bar. Please consider helping in this area.

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

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](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 5/5/24**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*Talmage Fire & Rescue Pancake Breakfast – til 1:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday 5/8/24**

*Final Kids for Christ for this school year – 4:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 5/12/24 Happy Mother's Day!**

*Worship w/Rite of Confirmation – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*Senior members if you wish to share a meal with our final Kids  
for Christ this school year on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, please call  
the church @ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.*