

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



*Join Us for*  
**WORSHIP**

*By Grace you have been saved!  
"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

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## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #384 – “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: 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.

**A: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**A: We confess that we are captive 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.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen. Assembly sits.**

**GREETING - p. 203**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

**KYRIE - p. 203**

**HYMN OF PRAISE - p. 204a**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see insert. Response after the prayer: **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** – Acts 5:27-32 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**        “What Does the Lord Require of You?”

**PSALM 118;14-29** - Please see insert and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Revelation 1:4-8 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – p. 205a

*Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy gospel according to ....

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** – John 20:19-31 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.** *The assembly sits.*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** - ELW #732 – “Borning Cry”

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM** – SAMANTHA EFFKEN AND KENNA THOMAS - p. 234

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** - p. 206 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

**PEACE** - p. 206 *Please stand in body or spirit*

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN** "Cultivating Love through Creation" hymn - ELW # 879

"For the Beauty of the Earth" - verses 1 and 2

**LORD'S PRAYER** - p. 208 – *Please stand in body or spirit for 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,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

**BLESSING** - p. 209 - Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

**DISMISSAL** - p. 209 - Response after the blessing:

A: Thanks be to God. *The assembly sits.*

**SENDING SONG** – *See Insert - "Here I Am, Lord"*

## **POSTLUDE**

## *Announcements*

### **Today 4/27/25** *Second Sunday of Easter*

Worship with Rite of Confirmation – Samantha Effken & Kenna Thomas - 8:30 a.m.  
Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

### **NEXT SUNDAY 5/4/25** *Third Sunday of Easter*

Senior Recognition Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.  
Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.  
Coffee & Fellowship Following  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

#### Items still needed for **Baskets of Promise**

*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)*

### **We pray always for . . .**

*Pastor Steve Billington, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,  
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek, Andy Wellensiek & Haleigh Werner*

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

*Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan, and Evance, orphans sponsored 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)**

Friends and families of Grace Lutheran 2025 Graduates –  
**Kali Drake and Tucker Thomas** - are invited to Senior  
Breakfast next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

Please call or text Sarah Purcell @ 402-269-5593 today,  
April 27<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to attend so that we know how  
many to plan for breakfast.

*Easter Lilies have been given this year  
by*

*Carl & Sarah Purcell  
Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ  
Dean & Jody Wellensiek  
Kate & Russ Dietz  
Eisenhauer's  
Gayleen Eden*

*In Memory of*

*Parents & Grandparents  
Parents and family members  
Our Parents  
Russ's Dad & Grandparents  
Jill & David  
Mike & their parents*

We celebrate today with Samantha Effken and Kenna Thomas at the completion of their confirmation education. Today they will be received as full member of Grace Lutheran by the Affirmation of Baptism. God bless Samantha & Kenna!

### **Kenna Lou Thomas**

Her parents are Travis and Mikaela Thomas

Her baptism sponsors are Emilie Neemann, Alicia Brommer,  
Stacy Knippelmeyer & Lisa Cropp

Faith Statement:

I believe I'm a child of God through baptism. I believe that God the Father created us and all things.

I believe that God the Son died on the cross for us and rose from the dead for the forgiveness of our sins

I believe that God the Holy Spirit give us the faith in Jesus.

I was baptized because my parents wanted me to be closer to God and for forgiveness of sins.

I am being confirmed because I want to make promises to God that my parents wanted me to make when they had me baptized.

I am attending this church because this is where my family go and I was baptized here, also the people here are welcoming.

Confirmation Verse: John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life"

## **Samantha Jean Effken**

Her parents are Travis Effken and Susan Waters

Her baptism sponsors are Kali Effken McGinnis and Christopher & Stephanie Effken

Faith Statement:

I believe I am separated from the world because of my baptism.

I believe God created us and all things. He loves us and sent Jesus to die on the cross for us.

I believe Jesus is the Son of God. He died on the cross to be raised from the dead for the forgiveness of our sins.

I believe the Holy Spirit helps me to have faith in Jesus and I can't believe on my own.

I was baptized because my parents and grandparents wanted me to be in the kingdom of God.

I am being confirmed because I want to take on the promises my parents made at my baptism for me.

I am being confirmed at this church because it is where I have always attended and when I come here I feel loved and appreciated.

Confirmation Verse: John 8:12

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## HERE I AM, LORD

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

### Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain
4. I, the Lord saw you baptized, watched you come to realize  
this belief that you have learned, you now will confirm.  
I'll be there throughout your life, times of happiness and strife.  
I'll be there to guide your way, I'll hear you say -- Refrain

**We thank Mark Wellsandt of Talmage** (Glen & Izma Seeba's grandson) for the final verse to  
"Here I am Lord" which remembers the Lord's love for our confirmation student on this special day.  
We use this verse by permission.





# Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

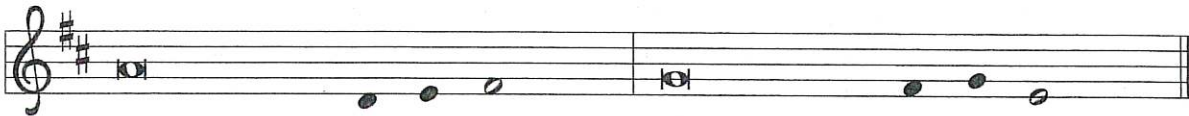
Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather

than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

## Psalm

Psalm 118:14-29; tone 10



The LORD is my strength <sup>1</sup> and my song,  
and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation  
echo in the tents <sup>1</sup> of the righteous:

**"The right hand of the <sup>1</sup> LORD  
acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD <sup>1</sup> is exalted!  
The right hand of the <sup>1</sup> LORD  
acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>I shall not <sup>1</sup> die, but live,  
and declare the works <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed  
pun- <sup>1</sup>ished me sorely,  
but did not hand me o- <sup>1</sup>ver  
to death.

<sup>19</sup>Open for me the <sup>1</sup> gates  
of righteousness;

**I will enter them  
and give thanks <sup>1</sup> to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
here the righ- <sup>1</sup>teous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you,  
for you have <sup>1</sup> answered me  
and you have become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the build- <sup>1</sup>ers rejected  
has become the chief <sup>1</sup> cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has <sup>1</sup> this been done;  
it is marvelous <sup>1</sup> in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the  
<sup>1</sup> LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be <sup>1</sup> glad in it.

<sup>25</sup>Hosanna! <sup>1</sup> O LORD, save us!  
We pray to you, LORD,  
pros- <sup>1</sup>per our days!

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
we bless you  
from the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>The LORD is God  
and has giv- <sup>1</sup>en us light.  
**Form a procession with branches  
up to the corners <sup>1</sup> of the altar.**

continued

<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and  
I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup>Give thanks to the LORD,  
for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

or Psalm 150; tone 9

## Second Reading

## Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God

and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes  
of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## 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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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."

<sup>26</sup>A 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." <sup>27</sup>Then 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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But 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.

TODAY'S READINGS April 27, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.

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