

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*

*THE  
Lord  
IS MY  
Shepherd*

*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

\*\*\*\*\*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #414 – “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

**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 9:36-43 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23** - Please see insert and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Revelation 7:9-17 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 10:22-30 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 #789 – “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**APOSTLES CREED** - p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**A:** hear our prayer.

## OFFERING

**OFFERING HYMN** “Cultivating Love through Joy” hymn - ELW #860  
“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” – ALL verses

**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** – ELW #427 – “For All Your Saints, O Lord”

## POSTLUDE

### **ELC Northern Tanzania Bishop Shoo Welcome**

You’re invited to attend a welcome for the ELC Northern Tanzania Bishop Shoo (pronounced show) and his wife, Janet, on Saturday, May 24, at 9:30 a.m. The “Meet and Greet” will be in the Grace Lutheran Church basement. They will be accompanied by Ronnie Green, Tanzanian Missions Volunteer Coordinator for the Nebraska Synod, and his wife, Jane.

Following the welcome, the group will tour Andrea and Robin Eggleston’s farm, enjoy lunch at Hope Lutheran Church, and end with a tour of Lisa and Bryce Cropp’s farm.

## *Announcements*

**TODAY 5/11/25** *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

### **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

Worship - 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

**MONDAY 5/12/25**

Bible Study – 2:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY 5/14/25**

Final Kids for Christ for the 24/25 School year – 4:00 p.m.

VBS Meeting at Grace Lutheran Church – 7:00 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY 5/18/25** *Fifth Sunday of Easter/Rogation Sunday*

Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

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

*Pastor Steve Billington, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake, Marlan Snyder,  
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)***

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)*

## **Candles for Mosaic**

Mosaic in Beatrice is requesting candles, new or used, stick, pillar or glass contained for an employment opportunity for their residents.

The residents will melt the candles down and then add saw dust.

Finally, the mixture is poured into small cups to cool and be sold as fire starters. The fire starters can be used in both fireplaces and fire pits. The price is \$5.00 for 20 cups. Deposit your candles in the box in the church basement by Sunday, May 25. They will be collected at the Nebraska Synod Assembly for delivery to Beatrice Mosaic.



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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

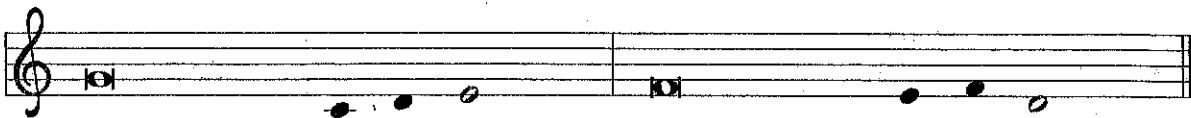
Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and

other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

## Psalms

Psalm 23; tone 10



The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down  
<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.

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

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they <sup>1</sup> comfort me.

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

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

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God  
who is seated on the throne,  
and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and  
wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever!  
Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed

in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night  
within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and  
thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to  
springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every  
tear from their eyes.”

## Gospel

## John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you

do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.”

TODAY'S READINGS May 11, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009620) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006. admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year C.