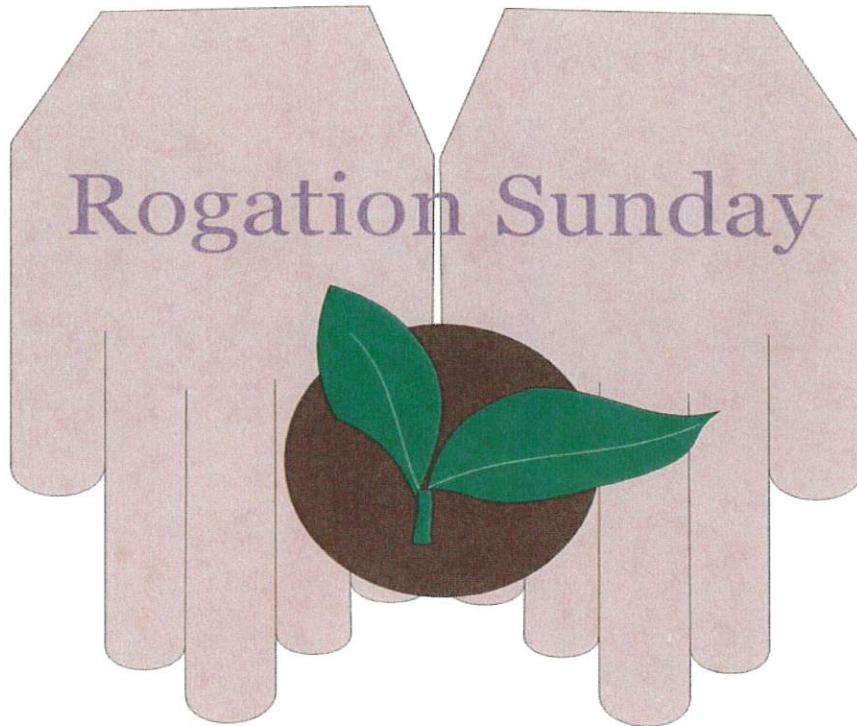


*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!*



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

Grace Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Rogation Sunday

May 18, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

PRELUDE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG - ELW #556 – “Morning Has Broken”

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS *Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

P: In gratitude for God’s mercy, in sorrow for our sin, in hope for renewed life, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

P: Merciful creator,

A: We confess the times we have hoarded the earth’s goods while others have gone without basic necessities; the times we have been greedy or ungrateful; the wrong we have done and the good left undone. We ask your forgiveness that our lives might reflect your light.

P: As a called and ordained minister of the church of God, and by his authority, I 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

P: God be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, your hand is wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen

FIRST READING – Acts 11:1-18 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 - Please see insert and read responsively

SECOND READING – Revelation 21:1-6 Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – p. 205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

S 205a



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

P: The holy gospel according to

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL – John 13:31-35 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON – Blessing of seed, water & soil

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #856 – “How Great Thou Art”

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

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

PEACE - p. 206

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 Joy” hymn - ELW #860

“I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” – ALL verses

GREAT THANKSGIVING - p. 206 *Please stand in body or spirit*

LORD'S PRAYER - p. 208

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.

LAMB OF GOD - p. 208

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING - p. 209 - Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL - p. 209 - Response after the dismissal:

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

SENDING SONG - ELW #835 – “Halleluiah! We Sing Your Praises”

Postlude

Announcements

TODAY 5/18/25 *Fifth Sunday of Easter/Rogation Sunday*

Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

MONDAY 5/19/25

Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY 5/20/25

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

5/20 & 5/21 Pastor @ Des Moines For Faith Forward Conference

FRIDAY 5/23/25

Tower Echoes Deadline

NEXT SUNDAY 5/25/25 *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

We pray always for . . .

*Pastor Steve Billington, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek, Andy Wellensiek & Haleigh Werner
The Family of Marlan Snyder*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Winfida, Juliana, Hassan & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania

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.

There is a box on the bench in the basement for collection of these candles.

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)***

Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship ☺

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.

Saturday Memorial Luncheon

Hope Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 24, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sandwiches, Salads & Desserts

Free will offering for Hope Lutheran Church

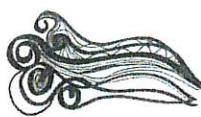
Women or Cemetery Fund

Memorial Day Dinner

*Memorial Day Dinner Monday, May 26 @ CCC –
11:00 am – 1:00 p.m.*

Shredded Beef Sandwiches, Salads, Desserts & Drinks

*Sponsored by Bickel Nelson #360 American Legion Auxiliary
& Thrivent Financial Action Team*



Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

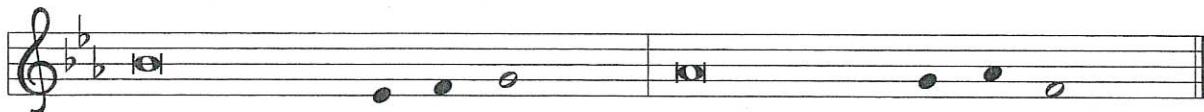
First Reading

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent

Acts 11:1-18

to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Psalm



Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

Psalm 148; tone 10

³Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.
⁴Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

continued

Psalm, continued

⁵Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
 who commanded,
 and they ¹ were created,
⁶who made them stand fast
forev- ¹ er and ever,
 giving them a law
 that shall not ¹ pass away.
⁷Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
 you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
 tempestuous wind,
 do- ¹ ing God's will;
⁹mountains ¹ and all hills,
 fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
 creeping things and ¹ flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;
¹²young ¹ men and maidens,
 old and ¹ young together.
¹³Let them praise the name
 of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted,
 whose splendor
 is over ¹ earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up
 strength for the people
 and praise for all ¹ faithful servants,
 the children of Israel,
 a people who are near the LORD.
 ¹Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will
be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Gospel

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now

I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

TODAY'S READINGS May 18, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9.

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