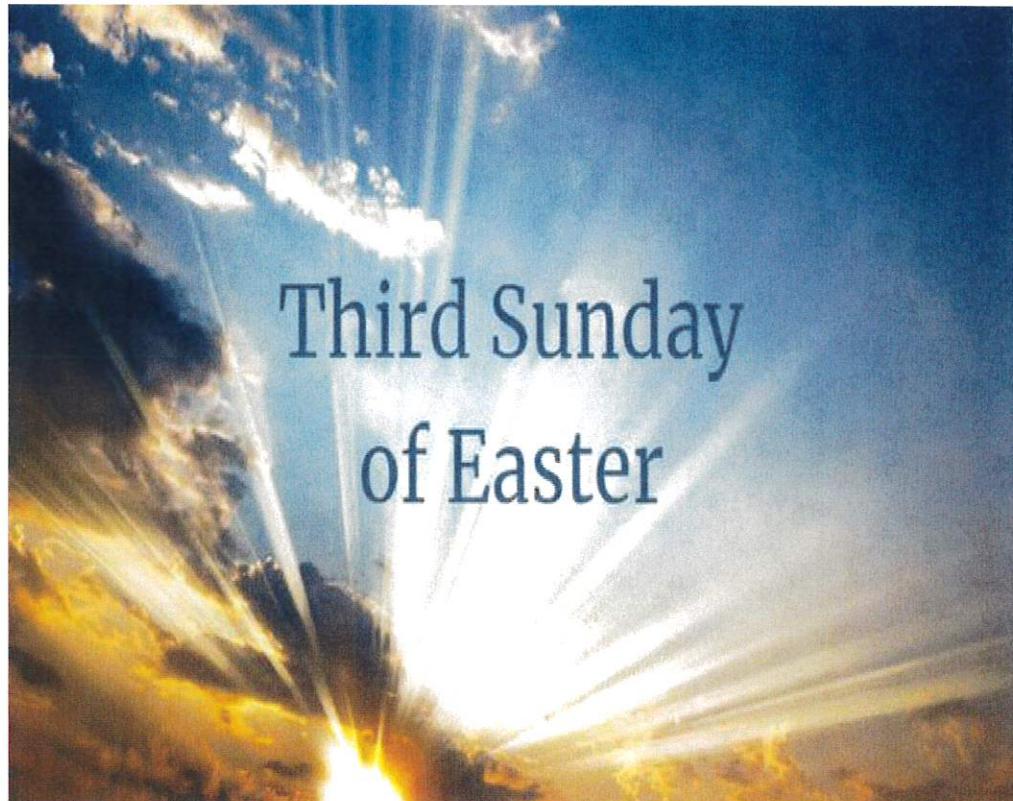


*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



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

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*\*\*\*\*

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #875 – “Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!” (Sing Twice)

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

P: In the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup>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 <sup>†</sup>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 9:1-20 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 30** - Please see insert and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Revelation 5:11-14 (not printed) 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.



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 ....

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

**GOSPEL** – John 21:1-19 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 #666 – “What Wondrous Love Is This”

#### **NICENE CREED** - p. 104

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our  
salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he  
suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He  
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no  
end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and  
the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken  
through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We  
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the  
dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **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 Joy” hymn - ELW #860

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

**GREAT THANKSGIVING - p. 206**

**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**

**COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING - p. 113**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.  
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

**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 #825 – “You Servants of God”**

Postlude

## Announcements

### **TODAY 5/4/25** *Third Sunday of Easter*

Graduate Recognition Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.

Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Talmage Fire & Rescue Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### **SATURDAY 5/10/25**

JCC High School Graduation – 2:00 p.m.

### **NEXT SUNDAY 5/11/25** *Fourth 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*

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

*Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan & 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)***

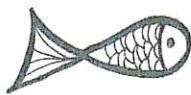
***or 402-826-0613 (cell)***

*Please join us for fellowship in  
the basement following  
worship ☺*

### **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.



# Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6 [7-20]

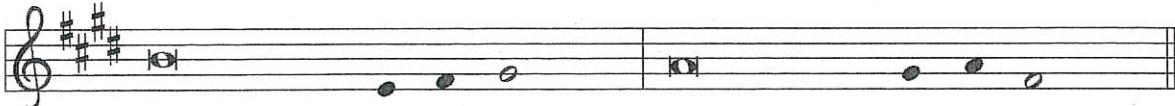
Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup>He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus

named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

## Psalm



I will exalt you, O LORD,  
because you have lift<sup>1</sup> ed me up  
and have not let my enemies  
triumph<sup>1</sup> over me.  
<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried<sup>1</sup> out to you,  
and you restored<sup>1</sup> me to health.  
<sup>3</sup>You brought me up, O LORD,  
<sup>1</sup> from the dead;  
you restored my life  
as I was going down<sup>1</sup> to the grave.

<sup>4</sup>Sing praise to the LORD,  
<sup>1</sup> all you faithful;  
give thanks in ho-<sup>1</sup> ly remembrance.  
<sup>5</sup>God's wrath is short;  
God's favor<sup>1</sup> lasts a lifetime.  
Weeping spends the night,  
but joy comes<sup>1</sup> in the morning.  
<sup>6</sup>While I felt se-<sup>1</sup> cure, I said,  
“I shall never<sup>1</sup> be disturbed.

continued

*Psalm, continued*

<sup>7</sup>You, LORD, with your favor,  
made me as strong<sup>1</sup> as the mountains."

Then you hid your face,  
and I was<sup>1</sup> filled with fear.

<sup>8</sup>I cried to<sup>1</sup> you, O LORD;

I pleaded with<sup>1</sup> my Lord, saying,  
<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my blood,  
if I go down<sup>1</sup> to the pit?

Will the dust praise you  
or de-<sup>1</sup>clare your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD,  
and have mer-<sup>1</sup> cy upon me;

O LORD, I be my helper."

<sup>11</sup>You have turned my wailing  
into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth  
and clothed<sup>1</sup> me with joy.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore my heart sings to you  
without ceasing;

O LORD my God,  
I will give you<sup>1</sup> thanks forever.

## Second Reading

## Gospel

After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them;

and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

## Revelation 5:11-14 [not printed]

## John 21:1-19

### TODAY'S READINGS May 4, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30.

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