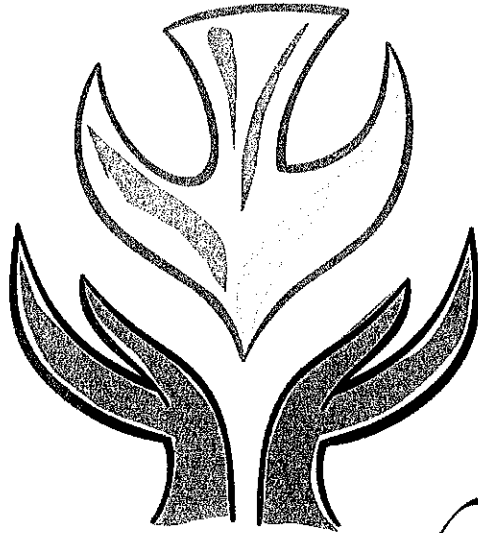


*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



*Join Us for*  
**WORSHIP**

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

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*\*\*\*\*

Pastor Jim Helgren

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

**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.

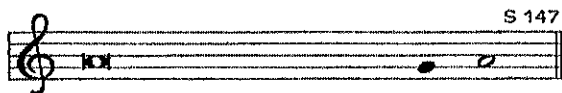
**A: Amen. Assembly sits.**

**GREETING** – (ELW p. 147)

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.

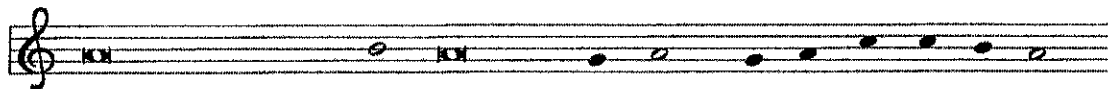
**KYRIE** – (ELW p. 147)



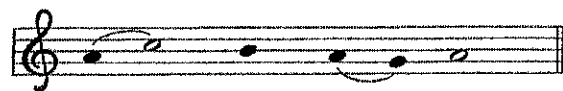
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



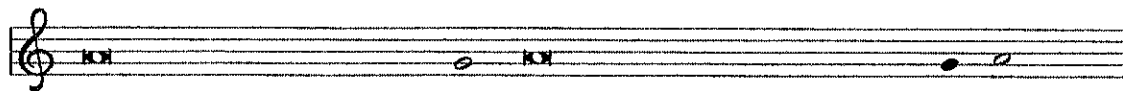
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



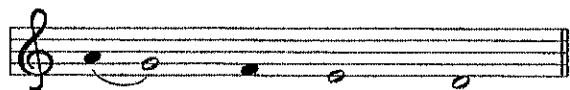
Lord, have mer - cy.



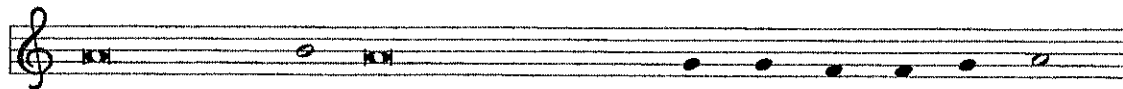
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



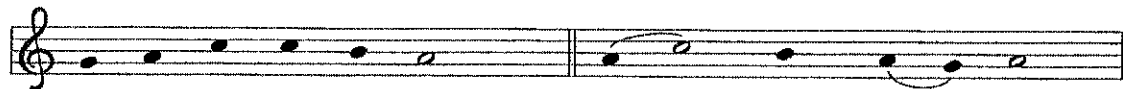
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



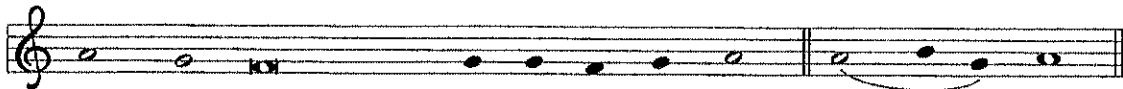
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE – (ELW p. S149)

*Refrain*

Assisting minister

S 149



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

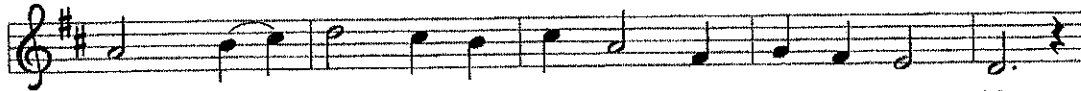
All



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

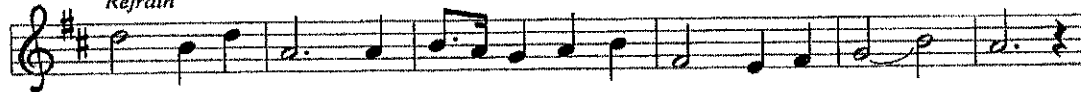


free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

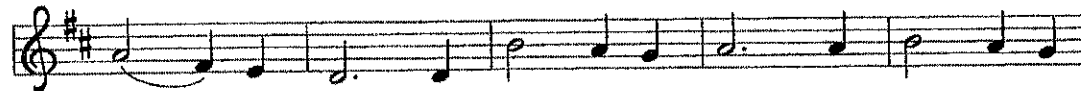


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

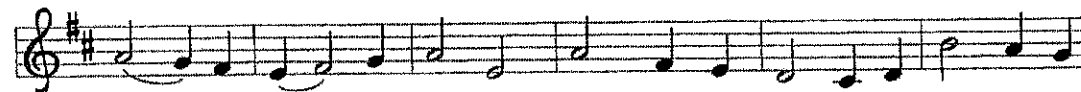
*Refrain*



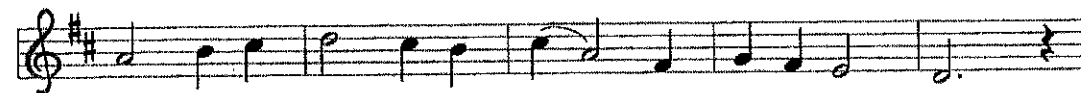
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

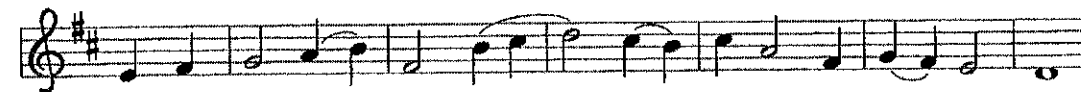


might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see handout.

**FIRST READING** –Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** - Please see handout and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

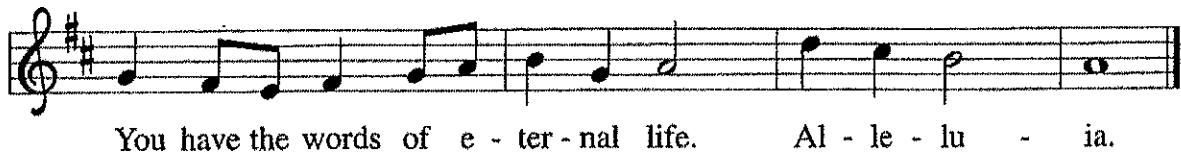
R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – (ELW p. S151a) *Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to ....

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

**GOSPEL** – 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**

**NICENE CREED – (ELW 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 – (ELW p.152)**

Response after each portion of the prayer:

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

**A:** hear our prayer.

**PEACE – (ELW p. 152) *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 - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” hymn - ELW #884**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING – (ELW p. 152 & 153)**

P: The Lord be with you.

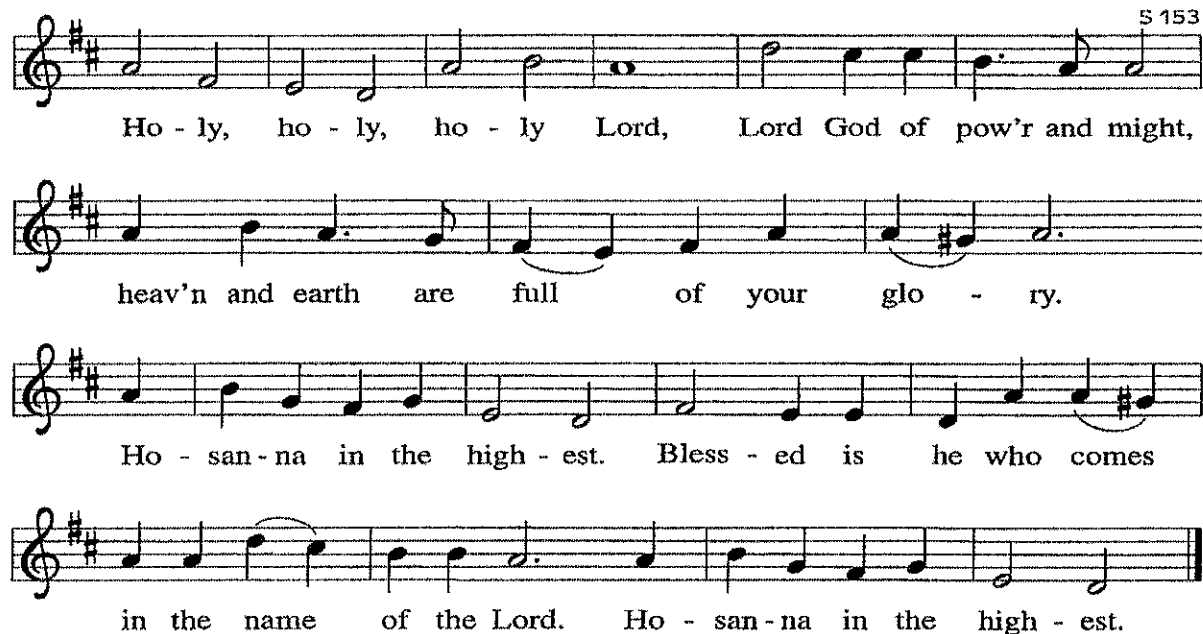
**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: it is right to give our thanks and praise.**



5 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER – (ELW p. 154)**

**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 – (ELW p. 154)

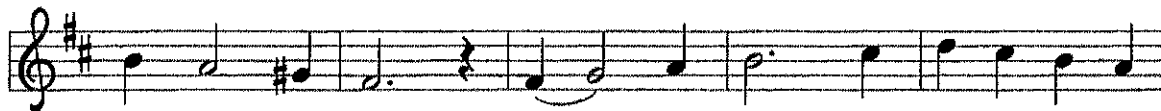
S 154



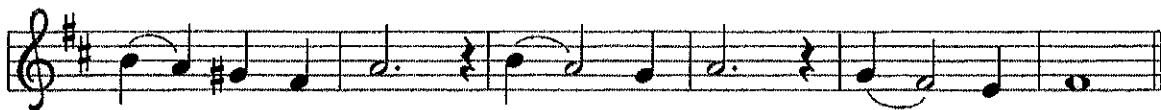
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING – (ELW p. 113)

**A:** 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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### BLESSING – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the blessing:

**A:** Amen.

### DISMISSAL – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the dismissal:

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

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

## SENDING SONG

Postlude

# **Second Sunday of Easter**

*Gathering Song –*

*ELW # 384 “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”*

*Hymn of the Day –*

*ELW # 385 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”*

*Sending Song – ELW # 380 “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!”*

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

*Louis & Grace Bentzinger, Gerry Brezenski, Linda Daniels, Julie Effken,  
Elaine Hauberg, Kathi Johnson, Diane Roesener, Ginger Rowe & Joan Wellensiek*

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

*Juliana, Hassan, Jackline & Charles, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania*

## *Announcements*

**TODAY 4/12/26** *Second Sunday of Easter*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

**MONDAY 4/13/26**

Grace and Hope Bible Study – 2:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY 4/15/26**

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY 4/17/26**

Administrator Meeting – “Coffee, Chaos & Church” @ Grace Lutheran – 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

**SATURDAY 4/18/26**

NE Synod Road Show @ Grace Lutheran Church – 10:00 am – 3:00 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY 4/19/26** *Third Sunday of Easter*

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

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)

## **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. For 5 weeks, beginning April 12th, we will be collecting items that will be used to assemble the Personal Care Kits. We will end the collection on 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)

Sturdy Combs

Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional).

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

### ***Graduating Senior Breakfast***

You are invited to the Senior Breakfast to honor

***Kaiden Dorn and Owen Weber*** on

Sunday, May 3, 7:30 a.m. in the Grace Lutheran Church basement. The students will share their future plans and The Piecemakers will gift each student a quilt.

If you plan to attend and/or if you would like to bring a breakfast food item, please contact Jody Wellensiek at 402-335-7121.

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN** with your Nebraska Synod Staff

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 10AM-3PM**

**TRAVELING TOGETHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

DO YOU WONDER ABOUT THE FUTURE OF GOD'S CHURCH?

DO YOU FEEL LIKE WE DON'T MEASURE UP TO WHAT THE CHURCH USED TO BE?

ARE YOU TROUBLED BY AGING BUILDINGS AND UNUSED FACILITIES?

DOES IT FEEL LIKE ALL THE CHURCH TALKS ABOUT IS PAYING THE BILLS?

DO YOU WANT TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS IN YOUR COMMUNITY BUT AREN'T SURE HOW TO GET STARTED?

**If you answered YES to ANY of the above questions, this event is for YOU!**

Learn More & Register (Lunch will be provided)

<https://nebraskasynod.wufoo.com/forms/pikdmxo0qbtz/bk/>



# Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

<sup>22</sup>"Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I  
will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my  
tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to  
Hades  
or let your Holy One experience  
corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways  
of life;  
you will make me full of gladness  
with your presence.'

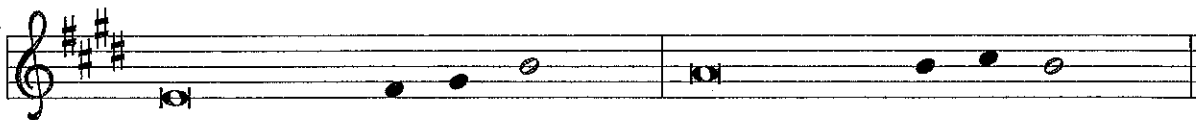
<sup>29</sup>"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience  
corruption.'

<sup>32</sup>"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

## Psalms

Psalms 16; tone 4



Protect me, O God,  
for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the LORD,  
"You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."

<sup>2</sup>All my delight is in the godly  
that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble  
among the people.

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>I will not pour out drink offerings  
to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

*continued*

<sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD al-<sup>1</sup> ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand,  
I shall <sup>1</sup> not be shaken.  
<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad,  
and my spir-<sup>1</sup> it rejoices;  
my body also shall <sup>1</sup> rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon me  
<sup>1</sup> to the grave,  
nor let your holy one <sup>1</sup> see the pit.  
<sup>11</sup>You will show me the <sup>1</sup> path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand  
are pleasures for-<sup>1</sup> evermore.

## Second Reading

## 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer

various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel

## John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, 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 that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.