

*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

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.

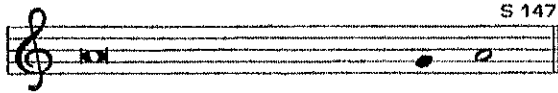
A: Amen. Assembly sits.

GREETING – (ELW p. 147)

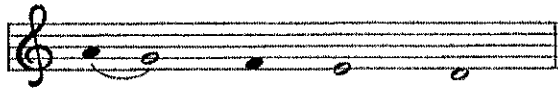
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

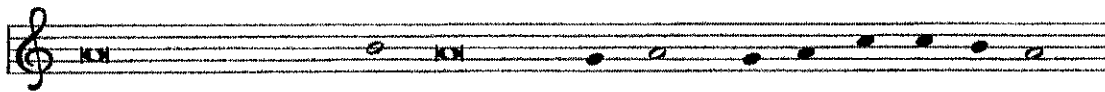
KYRIE - (ELW p. 147)



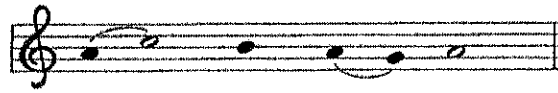
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



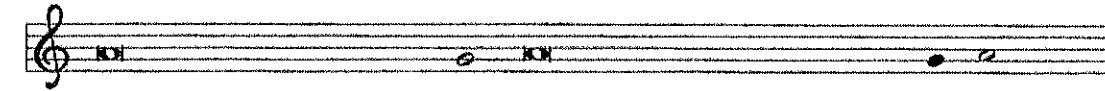
Lord, have mer - cy.



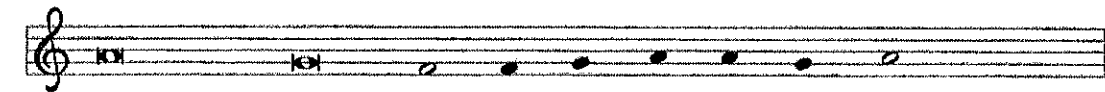
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



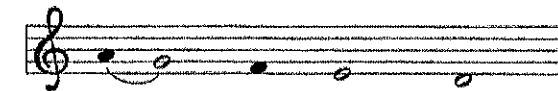
Lord, have mer - cy.



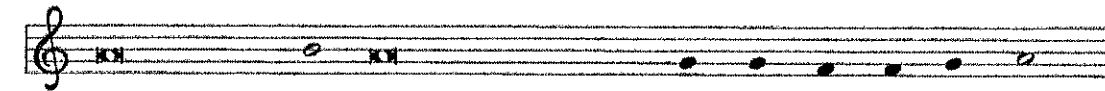
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



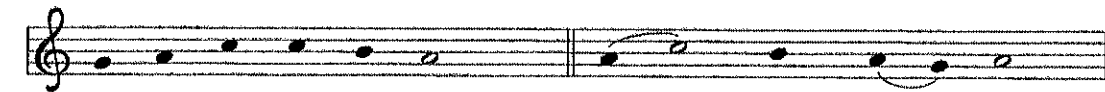
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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. 148)

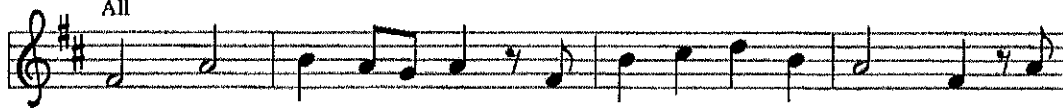
Assisting minister

S 148

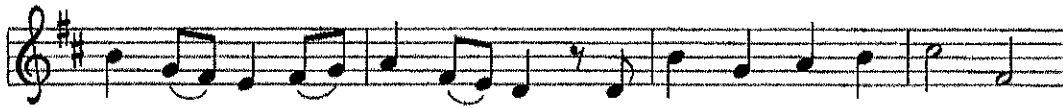


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



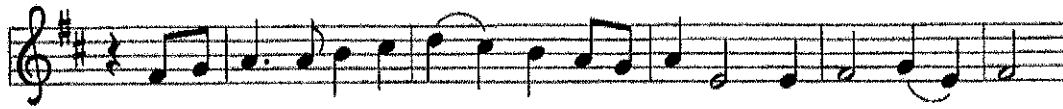
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



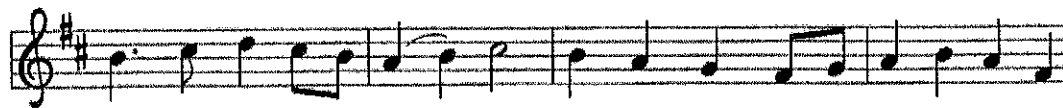
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



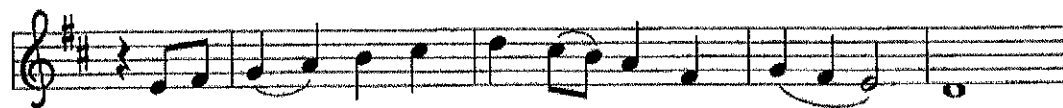
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

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

S 151a

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 handout.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

APOSTLES CREED – (ELW 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.**

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN - ELW #884 - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – (ELW p. 152)

Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER – (ELW p. 154) – *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 – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the blessing:

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

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

SENDING SONG

POSTLUDE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gathering Song – ELW #807 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Hymn of the Day – ELW # 732 “Borning Cry”

Sending Song – ELW # 774 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

We pray always for . . .

Lucas Cropp, Jude Fricke, Hayden Wellensiek

*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 4/26/26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

No Sunday School

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

MONDAY 4/27/26

Salad Luncheon & Quilt Show @

Luther Memorial Church, Syracuse – 11 am – 1 pm

WEDNESDAY 4/29/26

Lay Member Visitation Training – 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY 5/3/26 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rogation Sunday – Soil, Seed & Water

Graduating Senior Breakfast - 7:30 a.m.

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

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

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)***

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)

Sturdy Combs

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

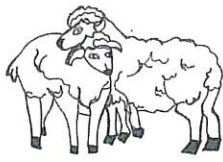
Graduating Senior Breakfast

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.



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47

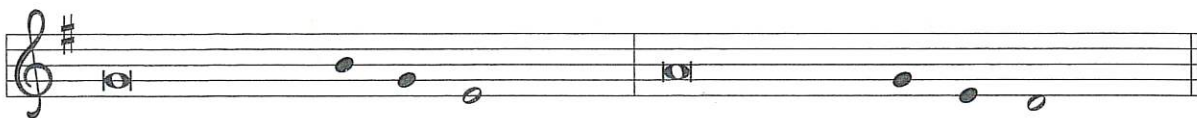
[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and

goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm

Psalm 23; tone 11



The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.
²The LORD makes me lie down
¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.
³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along
right pathways
¹ for your name's sake.
⁴Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they ¹ comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is ¹ running over.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell
in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his
mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know

the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Lucas Elliot Cropp

Son of Bryce and Lisa Cropp

Baptism Sponsors: Stacy & Jake Knippelmeyer
Amy & Adam Perkins

Confirmation Verse: Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send,
and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I! Send Me."

Statement of Faith:

I believe the Church is where people come together to follow God
and grow in their faith. It's a place where I can learn, be supported,
and feel like I belong. The Church helps me stay connected to God
and reminds me I'm not alone in my faith.

I believe God the Father created everything, including the heavens
and earth. He loves us like His own children and is always there for
us. He sent His only Son so we could be saved and have a life with
Him.

I believe Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us from our sins.
He died for us because He loves us and wanted to give us another
chance. Through Him, we are forgiven and can be close to God.

I believe the Holy Spirit is always with us and helps us stay strong in
our faith. He guides us to make the right choices and keeps us on the
right path. He gives us the strength and courage to live the way God
wants us to.

I was baptized when I was young, so it really wasn't my choice. It was
something my family chose because they wanted me to grow up in
the faith. Now I see it as an important start to my relationship with
God and something I can choose to live out for myself.

I am being confirmed because now I can choose my faith for myself.
Even though I was baptized when I was young, this is my decision to
keep following God. I want to grow stronger in my faith and fully
commit to living it out.

I come to the Church because that's how I was raised and it's a big
part of my life. I also like the people here and feel comfortable being
around them. Being here helps me stay close to God and reminds me
I'm part of something bigger than myself.

Jude Perry Fricke

Son of Casey and Emily Fricke

Baptism Sponsors: Adam & Carrie Badberg

Confirmation Verse: Luke 11:28

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

Statement of Faith:

I believe in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity.

I believe that God, the Father, created Heaven and Earth and sacrificed his Son to die for our sins.

I believe that Jesus, the Son of God, sacrificed himself for our sins because he loves us.

I believe that God, the Holy Spirit, gives us faith and makes us believe in the Trinity.

I was baptized because my parents wanted me to be a part of the kingdom of God.

I am being confirmed because then I can be a part of this church.

I am coming to this church because I live here in Cook, I have friends here, and Pastor is funnier here.

Hayden William Wellensiek

Son of Bret and Melissa Wellensiek

Baptism Sponsors: Jon & Michelle Scott
Kyle Wellensiek

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 may have eternal life."

Statement of Faith:

I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as the Trinity.

I believe God created everything we know and He sacrificed his Son for our sins.

I believe God the Son died for our sins to be forgiven because He loves us.

I believe that the Holy Spirit gives us our faith in God and Jesus.

I was baptized because I wanted to be a part of the kingdom of God.

I am being confirmed because I want to be a part of the kingdom of God and the church.

I am going to this church because my family goes here.