

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



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

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Jim Helgren

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**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  $\text{†}$ 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  $\text{†}$ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

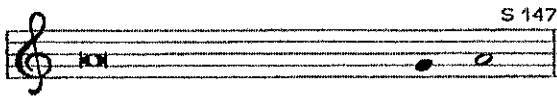
**A:** Amen. *Assembly sits.*

**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.

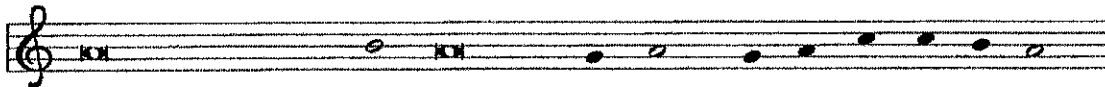
**KYRIE – (ELW p. 147)**



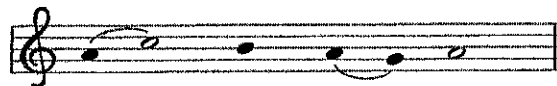
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



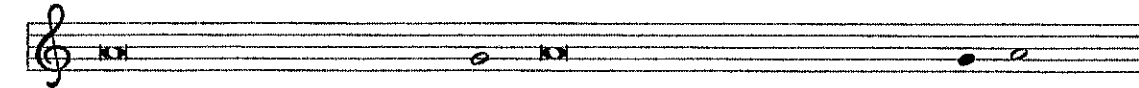
Lord, have mer - cy.



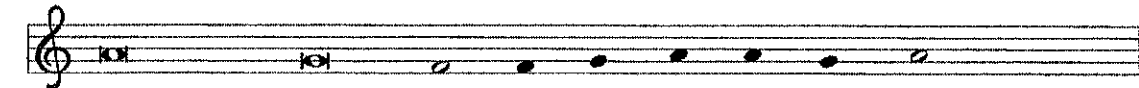
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



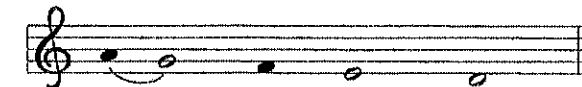
Lord, have mer - cy.



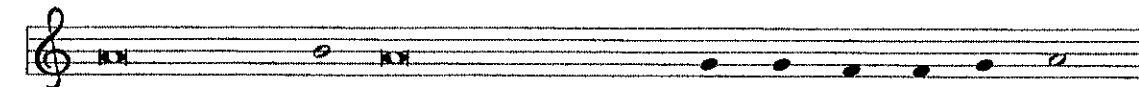
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



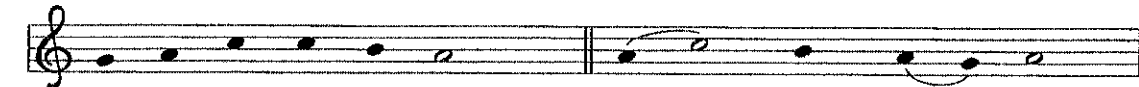
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



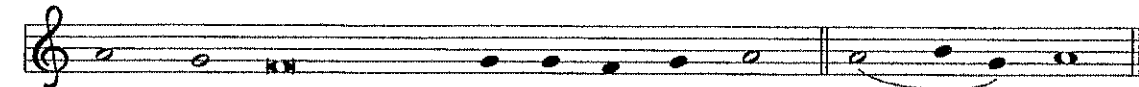
Lord, have mer - cy.



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)

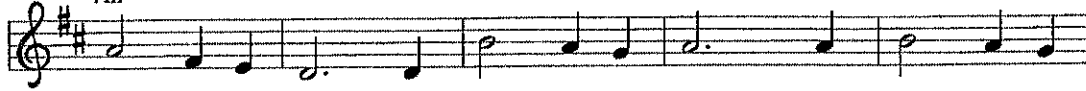
*Refrain*  
Assisting minister

S 149



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

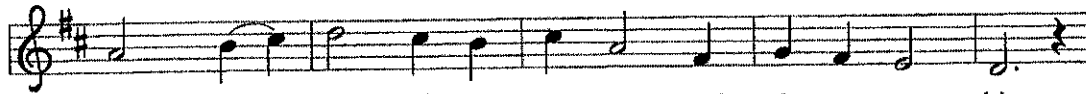
All



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

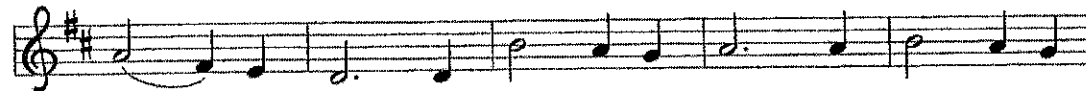


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



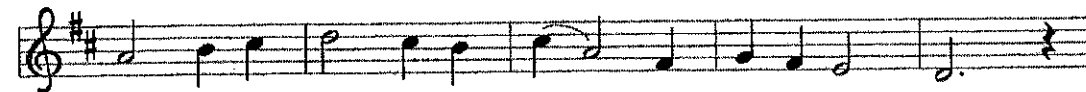
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



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

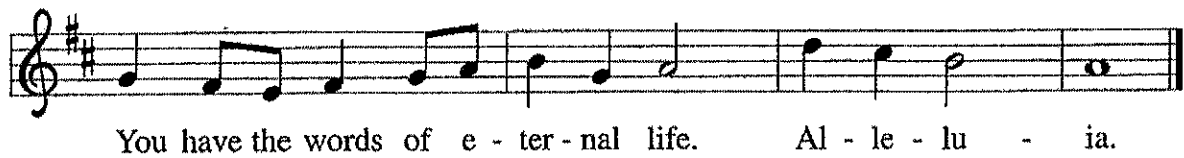
**SECOND READING** – Please see handout.

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.*



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.**

S 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.*

## SENDING SONG

Postlude

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

# ***Fifth Sunday of Easter*** ***Rogation Sunday***

*Gathering Song – ELW #879 “For the Beauty of the Earth”*

*Hymn of the Day – ELW # 824 “This Is My Father’s World”*

*Sending Song – ELW # 731 “Earth and All Stars”*

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

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

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

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

## *Announcements*

**TODAY 5/3/26** *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Rogation Sunday – Soil, Seed & Water*

*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.*

**NEXT SUNDAY 5/10/26** *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!!**

*Worship – 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.*

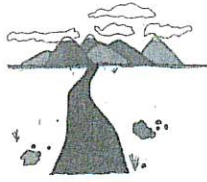
*Bath Towels (lightweight, maximum size 52" x 27", dark colors are recommended).*

*Toothbrushes (adult size)*

*Sturdy Combs*

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

***Senior Recognition Today***  
to honor ***Kaiden Dorn*** and ***Owen Weber***  
They will graduate from Johnson County Central on May 9<sup>th</sup>.



# Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him

out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

## Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; tone 4



In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be <sup>1</sup> put to shame;  
deliver me <sup>1</sup> in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your <sup>1</sup> ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- <sup>1</sup> liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock,  
a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag  
<sup>1</sup> and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name,  
lead <sup>1</sup> me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net**  
**that they have secretly <sup>1</sup> set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- <sup>1</sup> er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands  
I com- <sup>1</sup> mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, <sup>1</sup> God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are <sup>1</sup> in your hand;**  
**rescue me**  
**from the hand of my enemies,**  
**and from those**  
**who <sup>1</sup> persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine  
up- <sup>1</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not  
be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the  
corner,"

<sup>8</sup>and

"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

## Gospel

## John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."