



Grace Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Pastor Kristin Klade

Organist Kathy Painter



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!



We are grateful you chose to worship at Grace and hope that you will experience the joy of God's life-changing love today. Whether looking for a church home, curious about the Christian faith or just visiting, you are welcome here. If you are visiting for the first time today, we would be honored if you would fill out a Welcome card located in the church pew so that we might better communicate with you. They can be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher. Please stop by the visitor booth in the lobby for information about any of Grace's ministries. Childcare is available for infants through age 3. If you are in need of childcare, please speak to one of our ushers. ALL are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. We invite you to come forward as the ushers instruct and stand or kneel at the altar. You will receive the bread in your hand and a small cup of wine or grape juice. After communing you are invited to rise and return to your seat by way of the side aisle. Grace Lutheran Church was established in 1905. After a century in Fort Worth, we remain energized by our mission to pass on the faith, serve our community, worship God, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray your time with us today will inspire and challenge you to live out your faith in daily life and join us as we live out our mission to serve God, our neighbors, and to proclaim the gospel.

"ELW" indicates hymn numbers in the center of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

" * " indicates those times when the congregation is asked to stand, if able.

P Pastor

A Assisting Minister

C Congregation

L Lector

Holy Communion

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you to JoAnn and Debbie for working on the butterfly gardens.

There will be a Council Meeting after Worship Service today.

Prayer Requests: Carol Anderson (Linda's sister), Calvin and Fleeta Miller, Marshall McKee and family (friends of Eng)

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,

holy and merciful,

holy and mighty,

you are the river of life,

you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,

who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

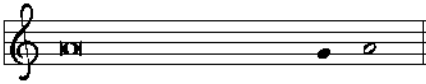
***Gathering Song** Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks - WOV 671

Greeting

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

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



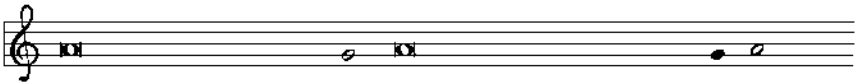
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



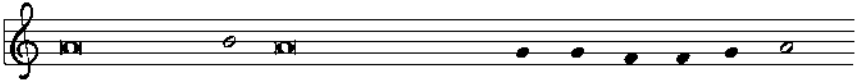
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

Canticle of Praise: This is the Feast

Refrain
Assisting minister

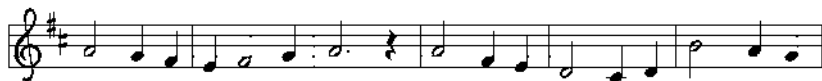


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

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

P Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.** (*be seated*)

WORD

L **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"
³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

*²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear
the LORD.*

*²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your
hearts live forever!***

*²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the
LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.*

***28For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.***

*29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.*

***30Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.***

*31They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"*

L Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (**please stand*)



P The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John the 15th chapter.

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

Gospel: **John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P This is the gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.** (*please be seated*)

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day** Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee - ELW
836

A: We confess the faith in which we were baptized.

Apostles' Creed (**stand*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Prayers of Intercession

(If you are unable to stand or kneel for the prayers, feel free to be seated during this time.)

(After each petition of the prayers:)

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Peace:

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.** (*please be seated*)

MEAL

Offering

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray,
Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . we praise
your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'Sanctus'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has two measures: 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

Eucharistic Prayer

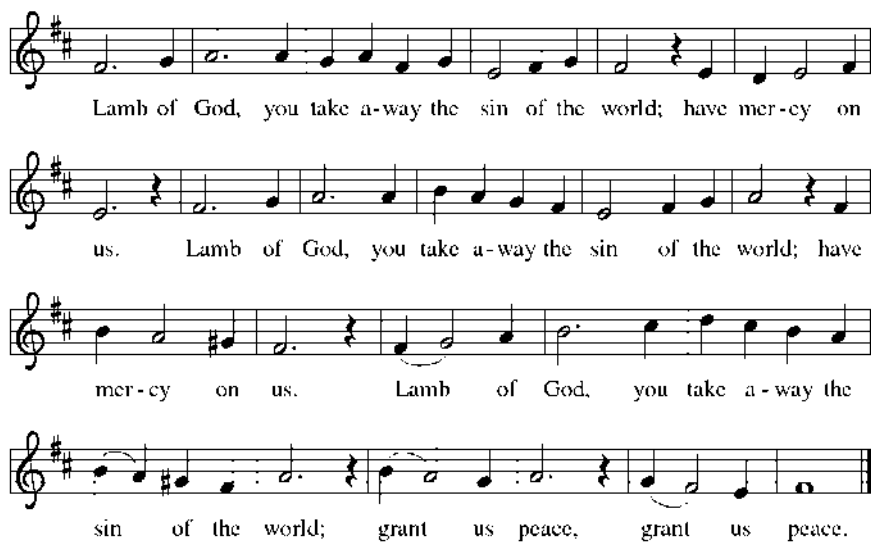
P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Agnus Dei



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.

Table Blessing (**please stand*)

P The body and blood... grace.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing:

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

Amen.

***Sending Song** On Our Way Rejoicing - ELW 537

Dismissal

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you to all who serve:

Altar Guild: Mary Ann Manning and Lynn Parks

Ushers: Greg Ruff and Malcolm Stephens

Assistant: Tom Lee

Lector: Robert Grimm

Counter: David Buland

Upcoming Commemorations

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Monday, April 29, 2024

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

From sundaysandseasons.com.