

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Apríl 25, 2021

" A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus"

Service of the Word via You Tube (Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One) Congregational responses are in bold print

Welcome to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! There are four key parts to our Worship Service: we GATHER before our God to prepare to worship, and bring ourselves and all that we are before God. Then we hear the WORD of God; we share the four Bible Readings with at least one billion other Christians around the world each Sunday! And we hear that word proclaimed through the Sermon, confess our faith in the God whose Grace we hear about in the Word, and offer our prayers to God, for the sake of the Church, the World, and each other in our needs and joys. We then share in the MEAL of Holy Communion, offering ourselves and then discovering God's love and forgiveness have already been waiting for us as we receive Christ's Body and Blood through the bread and wine. Finally we are SENT, the shortest but perhaps most important part of worship, because it is THEN that we live out our Faith and what we believe about God's Grace and Love, and how it makes <u>us</u> a blessing in this world as we share it.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in **bold type**. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to **stand**, please do so <u>as you are able</u>. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new,leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

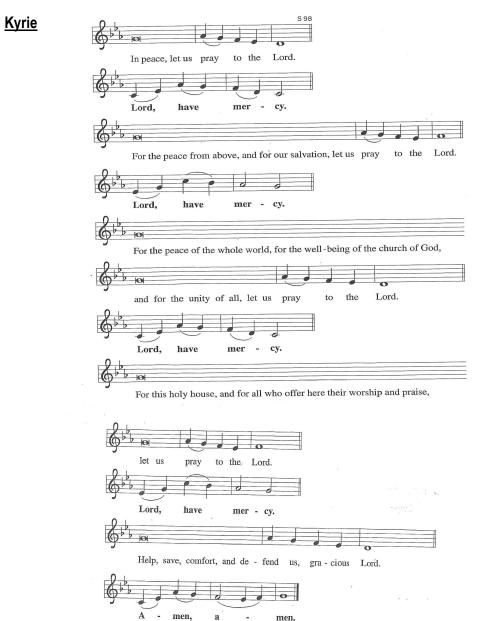
O Blessed Spring 0 -0 spring, where word sign em - brace us 1 0 bless - ed and 2 Through sum - mer heat youth of ful years, un - cer - tain -When au - tumn cools cold, when limbs their 3 and youth is we breathe our win - ter comes, as win 4 As ters must, Vine, Christ, liv 5 Christ, ho - ly ing Tree, be praised for -Vine: here Christ en - joins Christ the each one to in - to sus - tained by faith, re - bel lious tears, Christ's in - fus - ing heav - y har vest hold, then through us, the Christ will warm, still held in last, re - turn dust; Christ, our souls take to this blest mys ter - y: that word and wa ter thus re --0 0 Tree. a branch of this life be giv ing the boughs will shout for gain. joy rain, a with gifts of beau - ty, move wis dom, love. spring. wing and trust the prom - ise of the vive and join us to Tree of Life. your

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Greeting

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



a 10 men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Fulfillment of the prophesies,

With Scripture and water you claim people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt. Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymus Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Word

First Reading: Acts 8:26-39

A reading from Acts:

²⁶Then an 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Word

Gospel: Luke 24:44-47

The holy gospel according to St. Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

The Bokelman Family

SermonPastor PingelSilence for reflection follows the sermon.

Musical Selection

Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Hear us O God, Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

Peace

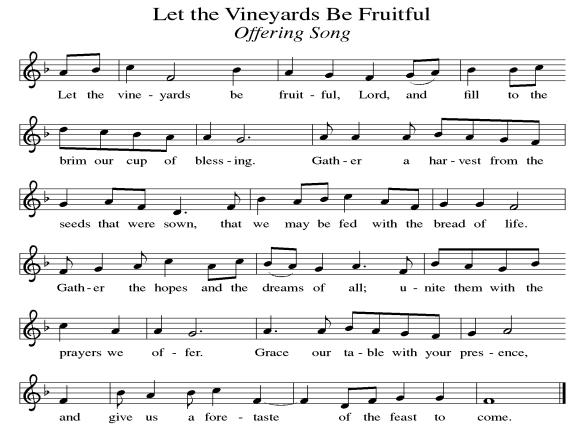
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please greet those around you, remaining distanced, and offering a sign of peace (such as arms open) to one another.

The offering plate is located in the Narthex near the doors.

The congregation stands.

Offertory Song



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

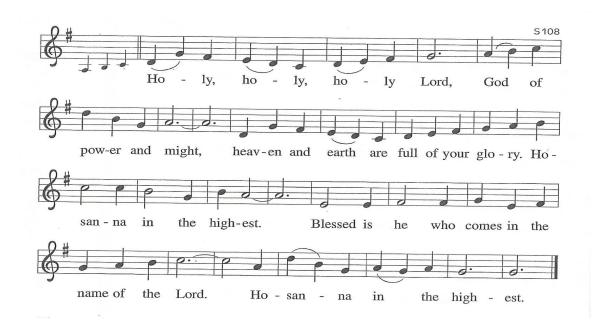
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this is remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

Thanks be to God!

"Lamb of God" may be sung.



The Holy Communion

The congregation may be seated.

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Communion Distribution: We will commune where we are seated, using the Holy Communion chalices provided. The Pastor will indicate the time to open the bread compartment in the chalice, receive the body of Christ, then turn the chalice over to the wine compartment, and receive the blood of Christ, using the words as noted, below.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands.

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us,and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

<u>Blessing</u>

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "On Our Way Rejoicing"

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<u>Dismissal</u>

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

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On Our Way Rejoicing ŧ -8 00 0 1 On our way re - joic - ing 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther glad - ly let us joy - ful songs we go. sing; **):#** B 0 8 . (Ф) 2 00 . #2 van - quished is the thank - ful hearts we Christ our Lord has con - quered; foe. bring; un - to God the Sav - ior 0 **5**: <u>n:</u> 8 . • . \odot 0 0 . #o Christ with - out, our safe - ty; un - to God the Spir - it Christ with - in, our joy; dore, bow we and а -. . **);**# ₿ • 0 0 C 0 -• • 3 . -00 . . who, if V can our hope de - stroy? we be faith - ful, on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more. 9:**# ••**• • Refrain • 8 0 \$ 8 ð On our way re - joic - ing; we for - ward move, as 0 • 0 -00 . 6 - 2 -. -O blest God of hear-ken to our prais - es, love! 0 0

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879



Council at Jerusalem Acts 15:1-18 Luke 2:29-32



Our Unity in Christ—Grace Racial Reconciliation Verse

Ephesians 4:1-3—¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Beth Ann Doerring	-	Ty Elliott
Frannie Knicely		Joe Moyer

Flossie Myers

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*) Patrick Haynes, Nephew of Tomeys Carolyn Moser, Sister of David Schwiesow Jennifer Robertson, Friend of Brad and Kim Hull

Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)Liz Ann BinnsFred BrowerMarie BrownNancy FitzgeraldSandra R. HoyBob KnemollerGlenn and Flossie MyersJanet Parmer

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)

Nancy Beiker, Friend of Gail & Sandy Johnson Nancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's Wife Ernie Graham, Friend of the Schwiesows Larry Hinebaugh, Friend of Donna Gum George Toop, Friend of the Schwiesows Janice Collins, Friend of Grace Kyle Getler, Member Relative Regan Grant, Friend of the Bumps Mike Huff, Brother of Donna Gum

Continued

Members/Friends Grieving

Family of James "Dennis" Critzer, Brother-in-law of Nancy Dowdy Family of Hunter Fitzgerald, Grace Member Family of David Frazier, Son of Eleanor Sampson Family of Yumi Frazier, Daughter-In-Law of Eleanor Sampson Family of Pete Giesen, Grace Member Family of Mary Grim, Sister of Ernestine Moomaw Family of Freda Hite, Mother of Bobby Hite Family of Freda Hite, Mother of Bobby Hite Family of Maxine Pierce, Mother of Cindy Trauscht Family of Jacob Robertson

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Kai Blosser Alvin Jackson Ryan Blosser Nathan Skelton

The Needs of the World

Patience and Abiding with each other as vaccines and pressures to return to normal rise The Atlanta, Boulder, Colorado and Virginia Beach and Fed Ex shootings, and grieving families and friends, and the reality of gun violence in our nation Students and teachers in area school districts Our nation and the many conversations about race and a way forward together

The Church

The Student Care Center at Grace Our unity in Christ with Churches in our Community Bishop Bob Humphrey, Assistants to the Bishop: Kelly Bayer Derrick, John Wertz, Dave Delaney and Synod Staff

Our neighbors in the Pelham area

Announcements



Return to In-Person Worship at Grace - Following best-practice advice from our medical experts, we are limiting attendance to 30 people per worship service. You will need to sign-up each week by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday in order to attend the next Sunday. We will add an additional 8:30 worship if we exceed 30 wishing to attend.



"Coffee Fellowship" Still Available After Worship! - In this "in-between" time upcoming where many of us are still worshiping via You Tube while we also have In-Person worship, our Zoom Coffee Fellowship continues after worship at approximately 10:50 a.m. It continues to be a great time to catch up, see each other's faces, and celebrate joys and concerns! Each week via email or U.S. Mail, you receive the Zoom link. Let the Church Office know if you are <u>not</u> receiving that invitation!



As we return to in-person worship, we need worship assistants. If you plan to return to in-person worship and could/would help with taking temperatures, offering stewards, ushering, etc., please call the Church Office if you can help!



Altar Flowers—Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers, especially now that we are having in-person worship. Please call the church office if you would like to sign up for Altar Flowers. April 25, May 2, May 16, May 23 and May 30 are all currently open.







Bible Class begins April 29th - Galatians - Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit - for the Church AND the World We Live In - The first of a what we hope will be a number of different Bible Classes offered in 2021, we remain in Zoom format for this five week class that begins Thursday April 29th. If there are students for morning and evening, we'll have class at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP! God's Word will not come away empty, and we need each other to understand God's Word (that's biblical!)!

Prayer Vigil—A prayer vigil will be held every 3rd Saturday at 3:00 p.m. alternating between Constitution Park and North Park, May's will be on the 15th at North Park. We will meet with our friends in Christ from Christ Tabernacle for prayer for racial reconciliation for the community in which we are all a part. This is prayer critical for our tie. Come and be a part! Meet the "Love" sculpture.

Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made <u>fifteen</u> deliveries thus far, seven to Main Street United Methodist, and eight to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Last week, 93 pounds of food went to Calvary United Methodist breaking our previous records! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



I have a congregation member, Sam Burns (DOB 10/15/54), who needs a kidney transplant. The doctor's have suggested to his wife, Donna, that we spread the word of this need far and wide in hopes of finding a living donor match. Inquiries as to the process and decisions about whether to proceed are anonymous. The family won't hear about anyone who inquires. The best way to begin is to call UVA transplant center at 1-434-924-0000.
Reference Sam Burns and his birthdate. Basic information can be found at https://unos.org/transplant/living-donation Of course you can call me if I can be helpful. I also hold information confidential re: any discussions I have about this topic.

Shalom, Karen Taylor



Life of Grace Church April 25—May 2, 2021

DAY OF	DATE	TIME	MEETING
TODAY— SUNDAY	04/25	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Easter Service of the Word In Person and via You Tube Communion Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom
Monday	04/26	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Student Care in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	04/27	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Student Care in Fellowship Hall
	04/27	7:00 p.m.	Church Council via Zoom
Wednesday	04/28	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Student Care in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	04/29	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Student Care in Fellowship Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Galatians Bible Class via Zoom
		5:30 p.m.	Discussion with Christ Tabernacle
		7:00 p.m.	Galatians Bible Class via Zoom
Friday	04/30	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Student Care in Fellowship Hall
Sunday	05/02	10:00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday of Easter Service of the Word In Person and via You Tube Communion Pastor Paul Pingel Presiding and Preaching
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom



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Kathryn Johnson, Amy Warren Hannah Pingel, Youth Representative David Proctor, Secretary Ron Almarode, Treasurer Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer Charles Goodrich, Jinancial Secretary Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor Mike Myers, Organist, **Director of Music** Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Lunch 12:00-12:30) -

Monday-Thursday; 8:30 a.m.—Noon - Jriday Email: gracelc@lumos.net

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