



Easter Season

Grace Lutheran Church

May 1 & 2, 2021

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

“We share God’s love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world.”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: 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.

P: 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.**

GATHERING HYMN “We Know That Christ Is Raised”

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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

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen, amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
of heav'nly joy and earthly peace we sing.

We worship you, to you our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

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P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

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: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

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.

²⁸**For 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.

³⁰**Their 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!"

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

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: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[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: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY “Awake O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

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APOSTLES' CREED

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 power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell. 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Let us pray.

C: **Have mercy, O God.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

**We place upon your table, Lord,
the food of life, the bread and wine,
as symbols of our daily work,
according to your grand design.**

**Accept them, Lord; they come from you;
we take them humbly from your hand.
These gifts of yours for higher use,
we offer up as you command.**

Text: M.F.C. Wilson © 1988, Lorenz Publishing.

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P: Let us pray...God of love,

C: 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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*(concluding)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:...*(concluding)*...Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
Eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

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COMMUNION MUSIC

P: Let us pray...Wellspring of joy,

C: 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

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Text: Fred Kaan; Music: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter © 1975 Hope Publishing Company.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS

Kelly Pankey, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Betty Dulebohn, Paul Denstaedt, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman's Family, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Allison, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Amanda Lema (Betty Dulebohn's granddaughter), Lyn Marshall, Joanne Coughlin, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Genie Diamond, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, and Scott Coddington.

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In honor of Steve & Janie Hansen's 52nd wedding anniversary, May 2nd.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Quilting Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Messiah Lutheran Church/Constantine, Rev. Christopher Laughlin.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP ON MAY 1 & 2

We return to in-person worship on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2. The same public health protocols that were utilized in the Fall will be in place: masking, social distancing in the seating, no congregational singing, distancing on entering and leaving the sanctuary, no congregating in the office lobby before or after worship and as low touch environment as we can achieve.

CHRIST IN OUR HOMES DEVOTIONAL FOR APRIL-JUNE

Christ in Our Homes Devotional for April-June is available in the Office Lobby. Pick one up during office hours of Tuesday - Thursday 8 am to noon or call the office and we will mail one to you.



Anniversaries of Baptism

May 4
Jerry Charter

May 5
Kody Bertrand

May 6
Michael Lang

May 7
Jeanne Pankey
Ella Sandula
Kady Sandula

May 8
Phran Ludington

May 9
Sheri Smith

May 10
Trevor Denstaedt
Taylor Hayward

May 11
Christopher Piontkowski
Stacey Piontkowski

May 12
Monroe Garant
Marjorie Weber

May 13
Joshua Engstrom

May 14
Logan Suszek

May 17
Wesley Garant
Hannah Kamyszek
Hope Kamyszek
Savannah Kamyszek
Kathryn Reynolds

May 19
Alexander Bauer

May 25
Lori Graham

May 27
Erica Wilson

May 28
Darlene Dekett

May 29
Jeffrey Welch

May 30
Terry Bertrand



May 1
Ethan McIntosh
James (J.J.) Timrick

May 2
Grace Kuligowski
Scott Lancaster
Harper Suszek

May 3
Chad Lewis
Beth Matzke
Craig Weise

May 4
Thomas (T.J.) Lappan
Mya Styma

May 5
Vicki Piontkowski

May 6
Dawn Anderson
Olivia Viegelahn

May 8
Matthew Anderson

May 10
Julie Townsend

May 11
Michele Amelotte

May 12
Rachel Chroninger
Taylor Chroninger
Nancy Platt
Peggy Tomaszewski

May 14
Lyn Schultz

May 15
Laurie Hansen

May 16
Jan Charter

May 17
Audrey Garant

May 18
Jacob Gapske
Karen Suszek

May 19
Michael McCourt
Rebecca Trelfa
Brett Werblow

May 22
Alexander Bauer
Pamela Kirchoff
Roger Pankey

May 23
Scott Coddington

May 24
Betty Bedford
Joanne Kindt

May 25
Polly Cook

May 26
Darlene Dekett
Stacey Townsend

May 29
Miriam Denstaedt

May 30
Gary Graham



Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Stephen & Janie Hansen
3rd Jeff & Sandy Welch
5th Jon & Mari Crow
10th Bob & Rosa Greene
17th Paul & Vicki Denstaedt
30th Eric & Emma Barber

PERSONAL CARE KITS NEEDED

Lutheran World Relief has reached out to Grace. They are in desperate need of personal care kits. The discipleship committee is asking those that can to help. The items need for the kits follow:

- One bath size dark color towel
- 2-3 bath size soap bars (8-9 oz.) in original wrapper
- one adult size toothbrush, in original package
- one sturdy comb, no fine tooth combs
- one metal nail clippers

If you can purchase one complete kit and return the items to the church during office hours, before Saturday May 22, we can help to make a Christ-like difference in our community and world. Thank you, Phran Ludington and Dawn Anderson, Discipleship Co-chairs

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - April 25	2,247.00

We received:

13 envelopes, 19 Simply Giving recurring payments,
and 1 Give+ payment made from our website

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