



*Easter Season*

# *Grace Lutheran Church*

## *April 11, 2021*

### **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** “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

*Text: John Mason Neale; Music: Michael Praetorius. This selection is in the public domain.*

#### **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**

**Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 4:32-35

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133

*How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

1 John 1:1—2:2

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. <sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.**

**Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **John 20:19-31**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

## **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**      "We Walk by Faith"

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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

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.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: 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.**

## 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 "Thine Is the Glory"

*Text: Edmond Budry; Music: George Frideric Handel. This selection is in the public domain.*

### 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

## **GRACE IN-PERSON WORSHIP REMAINS SUSPENDED**

On Wednesday evening, April 7, we received word that with COVID-19 cases in our area rising significantly and our hospital being stressed the resident pulmonologist Dr. Dan Maxwell's recommendation for his church, Trinity Episcopal, was not to resume in-person worship this weekend. With the heaviest of hearts, Grace's Council has made the decision not to resume our in-person worship here this weekend. It is out of an abundance of Christian care for our community and for health care workers that we make this decision. The local conditions will continually be evaluated and we hope and expect the return to in-person worship will be in the coming weeks. With increasing vaccinations and continued public health practices, this horrible pandemic is almost over. We all can be part of the solution to this pandemic for everyone by making our sacrifices for just a little while longer.

## **PRAYERS**

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, Vicki Piontkowski, 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, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, 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, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin. *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.**

## **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 LARCC Clergy at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Peace Lutheran Church/Charlotte, Rev. Neil Brady.

## **ADULT CE FOR SUNDAY APRIL 11**

### **Idolatry - Biblical Times and our times**

What was an idol in Biblical times? What is an idol? What do we allow to become idols to us today? These are questions that have been dealt with from the beginning of Biblical times. We still deal with them today. So let's discuss how we live out our faith in light of them. Sunday at 11 via Zoom.

**VIEW SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ONLINE**

Our Sunday morning worship service will be livestreamed. Go to [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org) for the link to the YouTube livestream. A recording of the service will be available for viewing anytime afterwards.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE**

Scholarship applications are now available in the church office. Please email or call the office to request an application: [officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org) or 989.354.2640. Deadline to apply is April 15.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call (354-2640) or email ([officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)) the Church Office.

**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.

**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 4	4,538.00

We received:

17 envelopes, 22 Simply Giving recurring payments,  
3 Thrivent Choice donations and 3 Give+ payment made from our website

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