

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

May 16-17, 2020

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: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

C: We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

R596

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of

heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify

Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”

R360

APOSTLE'S 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: Hear our cry, O God.

C: Listen to our prayer.

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.**

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Abide With Me” (v. 1, 3-5)

R629

DISMISSAL

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Larry Nelson, Marge Weber, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman’s Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich’s partner), Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Kevin Reiser, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Bill Estlack, Nick Wittman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David’s Dad), Edna Delano, Yvonne Stoll, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, Cody Gustin. **Prayer Concerns: We are still taking prayer concerns to be included in the weekly bulletin – now becoming weekly news and announcements and more. Please do have the persons permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than just our congregation will know about it.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kyle & Ashley Hansen on the birth of a son, Myles Irving., who joins his brother, Levi. Grandparents are Matt & Ruby Haske.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED

With Governor Whitmer’s order to Stay Home and Stay Safe, the church building is closed until May 28th. That is the building is closed but not the work of Grace Lutheran Church or the congregation of Grace. God’s work goes on regardless of a building. The staff is now working from home as much as possible. We can now check the phone remotely for messages and will respond. Mail will be picked up daily and put in the office.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS – CHRIST IN OUR HOME

If you did not have the chance to pick your copy of *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklet, please let us know. Call or email and we will get a copy out to you. And as many have done if you have shared them with family, friends and neighbors in the past, we will mail them one also.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (ACE)

ACE is going to spend the next 2 classes reviewing the *DRAFT Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy*. This comes from the ELCA Church Wide Council as way to engage our faith in the community and world. A comment period is open until May 27 for members of the denomination that want to submit responses. If you are interested in joining in a Zoom ACE class, please email Pastor Tom and you will receive the copy of the draft Social Message and the information to join the class on Zoom.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP ????

Ways are being explored at how we might come back to in-person worship in the Grace Lutheran building. Multiple possibilities are being considered. It is still very hard to know what the recommendations will be from the CDC, from the state of Michigan, the local health department and from the experience of others. We want to do in-person worship in a way that is safe and healthy for as many people as possible.

Consideration will need to be given for the best practices that will provide that opportunity for worshipping together. What social distancing practices will be recommended and how best can we implement them? What does that mean for getting people in and out of the sanctuary and the seating? What that will mean for the worship service itself? What are the best ways to do things with that in mind? Are there some things that are too risky to do at this time?

The Worship Work Group has viewed several webinars on this from our Synod, read recommendations from other church groups and had discussion themselves about how to proceed and are formulating plans. We are working to present these options to Council for a leadership decision. More information will be coming out soon.

ONLINE WORSHIP RECORDINGS

From our website or Facebook page you can access a video that we have made of scripture, prayers, music and a meditation for the week. Please let others, family, friends and church members know about this. We hope these recorded services are meaningful. ***MANY PEOPLE ARE WATCHING*** From April 19th 195 views, from April 26th 146, from May 3rd 108, and from May 10th 104 views so far. It is GOD'S WORD and it needs to be out there. The world so needs to know of God's love and grace and peace and justice and strength right now. *THANKS*

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have changed any contact information since our last church directory, say have a cell phone as your preferred or only contact, do let us know so we have the latest info in the church office.

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Due to the difficulty in obtaining information necessary to complete the scholarship application, the committee has extended the deadline to June 1, 2020. Completed applications may still be emailed or mailed to the church office. Call the office (354-2640) if you would like an application mailed or emailed to you.

DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?

Several church members have been making some for the hospital and are willing to make some for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Though the building is closed, mail is still dealt with daily. So offering envelopes can be sent in and they will be deposited.

SIMPLY GIVING

If you would like to set up a transfer from one of your bank accounts to Grace's, like automatic utility paying, give the office a call and Peggy will help set that up.

GIVE +

You can also go to our website and use the Give + link for a one time contribution or set up a recurring contribution through credit cards or bank account.

Thank you to one and all for your faithfulness in your stewardship toward God's work at Grace Lutheran.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,415.00
Weekly giving - May 10	5,160.00

Thank you to all who have dropped off or mailed in envelopes and made donations online.

This week we received: 30 envelopes, 2 new Give+ payments made from our website, and 1 new recurring donation



Anniversaries of Baptism

May 4

Jerry Charter
Gordon Hansen

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

Derek Hibner
Jordan Seck
Logan Suszek

May 17

Wesley Garant
Hannah Kamyszek
Hope Kamyszek
Savannah Kamyszek
Kathryn Reynolds

May 25

Lori Graham

May 27

Erica Wilson

May 28

Darlene Dekett

May 29

Jeffrey Welch

May 30

Terry Bertrand

May 1

Linda Batchelor
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 6

Dawn Anderson
Olivia Viegelaahn

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

<i>2nd</i>	<i>Stephen & Janie Hansen</i>
<i>3rd</i>	<i>Jeff & Sandy Welch</i>
<i>8th</i>	<i>Jon & Mari Crow</i>
<i>10th</i>	<i>Bob & Rosa Greene</i>
<i>17th</i>	<i>Paul & Vicki Denstaedt</i>
<i>22nd</i>	<i>Gordon & Dorothy Hansen</i>
<i>30th</i>	<i>Eric & Emma Barber</i>