



Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

This is Amazing Grace

Praise Team

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.

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 and hear us as we confess:

For the times I have turned away from God

For the wrong done and the good left undone

For any lack of charity, compassion and kindness

For choosing to close my eyes, hands and heart to God's call. I ask forgiveness, and ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, hear this promise from God: your sins are forgiven, +in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

Celebrate Jesus

by Gary Oliver

Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, Celebrate Jesus, celebrate;
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.

He is risen, He is risen, And he lives forevermore,
He is risen, He is risen, Come on and celebrate,
The resurrection of our Lord.

Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, Celebrate Jesus, celebrate;
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.

He is risen, He is risen, And he lives forevermore,
He is risen, He is risen, Come on and celebrate,
The resurrection of our Lord.

Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, Celebrate Jesus, celebrate;
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate, Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.

Public Domain

Greeting

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

***Prayer of the Day**

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson

Acts 4: 5-12

A reading from Acts:

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Lesson

1 John 3: 16-24

A reading from First John:

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Day by Day – A Prayer

by M. Smith & A. Grant

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray,

To see Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly,

Follow Thee more nearly, day by day.

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*Gospel

John 10: 11-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the

sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Lay Servant: Jean Schlickbernd

Hymn of the Day

You are My King (Amazing Love)

by Billy James Foote

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken, I'm accepted, You were condemned,

I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me, because You died and rose again.

I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken, I'm accepted, because You were condemned,

I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me, because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be, that You My King would die for me,

Amazing love, I know it's true, it's my joy to honor You;

Amazing love, how can it be, that You My King would die for me,

Amazing love, I know it's true, it's my joy to honor You;

In all I do, I honor You.

You are my King, You are my King,

Jesus, You are my King. Jesus, You are my King.

Amazing love, how can it be, that You My King would die for me,

Amazing love, I know it's true, it's my joy to honor You;

Amazing love, how can it be, that You My King would die for me,

Amazing love, I know it's true, it's my joy to honor You;

In all I do, I honor You, in all I do, I honor You, in all I do, I honor You.

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***Apostles' Creed**

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**

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.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. 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.**

***Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”*

The peace of the Lord be with you, always.

And also with you.

Offering

We appreciate your support of the work of the church through your tithes and offerings. Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary. (A reminder: Checks or envelopes for Trinity will go to Trinity. Loose cash will go with Grace's offering.) The question remains for each of us, apart from this continued support, how, and what, else am I called to give for the sake of the world? Let us prayerfully discern what is ours to keep, and where the rest shall be given.

Offering Prayer

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.**

*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.

Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Praise Team

*Sending Hymn

My Redeemer Lives

by Reuben Morgan

I know, He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sins, I believe, I believe.

My shame He's taken away, My pain is healed in His name, I believe, I believe.

I'll raise the banner, 'Cause My Lord has conquered the grave.

My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives.

I know, He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sins, I believe, I believe.

My shame He's taken away, My pain is healed in His name, I believe, I believe.

I'll raise the banner, 'Cause My Lord has conquered the grave.

My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives.

You lift my burdens, I'll rise with you,

I'm dancing on this mountain top, To see Your kingdom come.

My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives.

My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives, My Redeemer lives.

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*Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude



Altar Flowers: Easter Joy



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