

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, April 14, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**



*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Prelude**

**\*Greeting**

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death “by hanging him on a tree.”

**Alleluia!**

God allows Jesus to appear “to us who were chosen by God as witnesses” and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ.

**Alleluia!**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*As We Gather at Your Table*

ELW 522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-ph-ant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism, confession and forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.  
**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,  
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.  
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.  
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.  
Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,  
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.  
Here, death is washed away forever.  
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,  
with leaves for the healing of the world.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,  
into this community, and throughout all creation.  
May the fire of your love renew our faith and deepen our commitment to you,  
that we might faithfully live in the covenant of baptism.

Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisive ways.

**For the times I have failed to live out my Baptismal calling to follow Jesus and obey his command to love one another. For the wrong done, and the good left undone; I ask forgiveness, and ask God to help and guide me**

Beloved children of God, hear God's promise: your sins are forgiven, you are a new creation, +in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise

*This Is the Feast*

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.  
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and  
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.  
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was  
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

**Acts 3: 12-19**

### **A reading from Acts:**

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 4**

(read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

## **Second Lesson**

**1 John 3: 1-7**

### **A reading from 1 John:**

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know

him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*Gospel Acclamation

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

### Gospel

**Luke 24: 36b-48**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

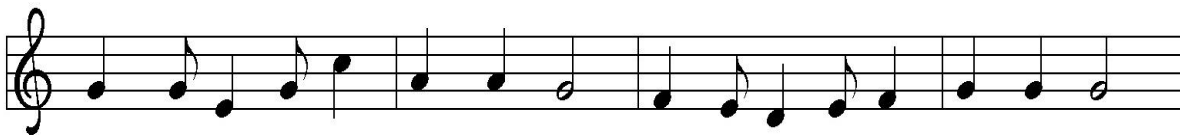
### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then 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.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

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**\*Nicene Creed**

**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;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He 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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty. Give healing and wholeness to all who are sick in mind, body, or spirit. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**



Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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.

**\*Offertory Hymn**

*Let the Vineyards*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**Offering Prayer**

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

### **\*The 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.**

And so we sing with all the saints in glory...

### **\*Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

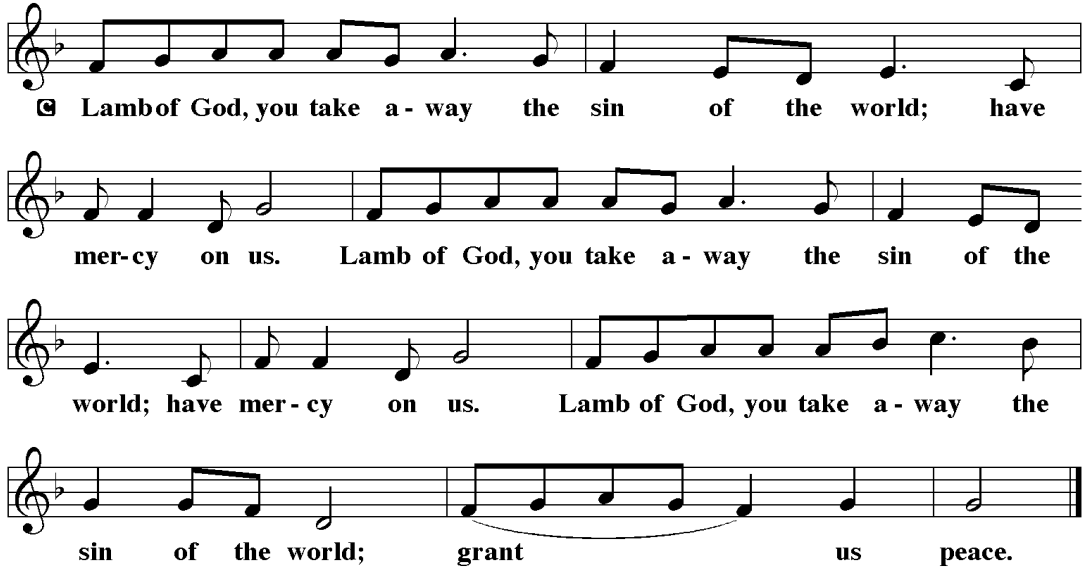
### **\*Words of Institution**

#### **\*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.

### **Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.



**♩** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Come, eat and be satisfied.

The Body and Blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

*Lamb of God*

### Communion Hymn

*Just As I Am, without One Plea*

LBW 296

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- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
- 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
yea, all I need in thee to find,

- 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## Blessing after Communion



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*Post Communion Canticle

*Thank the Lord*

## \*Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

ELW 377 vs. 1, 2, 5



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing; O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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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