



Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter



**Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

My Redeemer Lives

Praise Team

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We ask for forgiveness of the sins we confess now in silence.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We thank you for forgiving our sins ✝ in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

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.

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 God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Acts 2: 42-47

A reading from Acts:

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(read responsively)

¹ The 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.**

³ You 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.**

⁵ You 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 Peter 2: 19-25

A reading from 1 Peter:

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he

entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

He Is Lord

by Author Unknown

He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Gospel

John 10: 1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Priscilla

Hymn of the Day

I Believe in Jesus

by Marc Nelson

I believe in Jesus, I believe He is the Son of God,
I believe He died and rose again, I believe he paid for us all,
And I believe that He's here now, standing in our midst,
Here with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.

I believe in You, Lord, I believe You are the Son of God,
I believe You died and rose again, I believe You paid for us all,
And I believe that You're here now, standing in our midst,
Here with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.

I believe in Jesus, I believe He is the Son of God,
I believe He died and rose again, I believe he paid for us all,
And I believe that He's here now, standing in our midst,
Here with the power to heal now, and the grace to forgive.

1987 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing, CCLI #11575839

Cara Mandel & Ryder Stigge

Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Cara and Ryder, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Cara and Ryder,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support this brother and sister and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Cara/Ryder, the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with this brother and sister in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, we entrust to you all who have asked us to pray and remember especially those on our prayer list. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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

Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary or you may use the QR code found on the back of the bulletin.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Sung

Invitation to Communion

The table is set for you. If you are hungry, tired, weary, or worn, or joyful or full, or care free, there is space for you here. Come, the bread of life and the cup of blessing await you. The body and blood of Christ given for you. Amen.

Hymn during Communion

Behold the Lamb

by Dottie Rambo

Behold the Lamb, behold the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world,
For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice, Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb.
Crown Him, crown Him, worthy is the Lamb,
Praise Him, praise Him, Heav'n and earth resound.

Behold the Lamb, behold the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world,
For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice, Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb.
Crown Him, crown Him, worthy is the Lamb,
Praise Him, praise Him, Heav'n and earth resound.

Behold the Lamb, behold the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world,
For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice, Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb,
Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb.

1979 New Spring. CCLI #11575839

Blessing after Communion

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace, from now unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

***Prayer after Communion**

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Congratulations Graduates!**Campbell Consbruck****Sam Alfson**

As fellow members of this community of faith we rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement as you move from high school into the next phase of your life. We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection, and strength.

Receive these quilts as a sign of our love and care for you and a reminder that you are held, wrapped in our prayers and love.

Blessing of graduates:

Mighty God, sustain these young adults with your constant presence and help. May they know your gracious love in good times and in bad, in the midst of confusion and through the bliss of clarity. Bless them and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Give them courage to hold to what is good; to return no one evil for evil; to help the suffering; to honor all people; to love and serve you in all they do +in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending Hymn*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

by Rick Founds

Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises,
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way, From the earth to the cross my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift Your name on high.

Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises,
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way, From the earth to the cross my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift Your name on high.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way, From the earth to the cross my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I lift Your name on high.

1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. CCLI #11575839

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

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