

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**April 27-28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler
Pastor Elaine Siemsen**

OUR MISSION

Proclaiming God's Love, God's Promises,
and the Abundant Life

PRELUDE

"Come Christians, Join to Sing"

arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Christ is risen.

He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

God is alive...

New birth is given.

Hope is alive...

A new age is dawning.

Joy is alive...

Redemption is here.

Love is alive...

Death cannot harm us.

We are alive...

New life is within us.

The church is alive...

God's spirit is within us.

God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King

Come, thou almighty King, / help us thy name to sing; / help us to praise; / Father all-glorious, / o'er all victorious, / come and reign over us, / Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word, / merciful, mighty Lord; / our prayer attend. / Come and thy people bless, / and give thy word success, / and let thy righteousness / on us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, / thy sacred witness bear / in this glad hour! / Thou, who almighty art, / rule now in ev'ry heart, / never from us depart, / Spirit of pow'r.

To thee, great One in Three, / eternal praises be / hence evermore! / Thy sov'reign majesty / may we in glory see, / and to eternity / love and adore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt. Public Domain.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Forgive us Lord when we are hesitant to live the resurrection life. Forgive us when we fail to show the truth, that you loved us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the cross. Forgive us that there is still fear in us that prevents us from living anew. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

Our almighty God has mercy on you. Jesus Christ was given to die for you. For his sake God forgives you all your sins and calls you into the new and abundant life of the risen Christ.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. / We will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made. / We will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Shout to the Lord"

Joyful Spirit Singers

PEACE PASSING

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

READING 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Connections"

Pastor Elaine Siemsen

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

O Master, let me walk with you / in lowly paths of service true; / tell me your secret;
help me bear / the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move / by some clear, winning word of love; / teach
me the wayward feet to stay, / and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me / a closer, dearer company, / in work that
keeps faith sweet and strong, / in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray / far down the future's broad'ning way, / in peace
that only you can give; / with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Public Domain.

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 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, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come 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

responses: God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

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.**

OFFERING RESPONSE "We are an Offering"

We lift our voices, we lift our hands / We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering. / Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, /
Lord use our lives they are yours, / We are an offering. / All that
we have, / All that we are, / All that we hope to be, / We give to
you, / We give to you. / We lift our voices, we lift our hands, / We lift our lives up
to you: / We are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles ©Word Music, Inc. c/o Warner/Chapell Music. Reprinted under CCLI- License 1347924

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

"Come to the Table of Mercy"

Come to the table of mercy, / prepared with the wine and the bread. / All who are hungry and thirsty, / come, and your souls will be fed. / Come at the Lord's invitation; / receive from his nail-scarred hand. / Eat of the bread of salvation; / drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc.; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP). Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

Holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

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.

CLOSING HYMN "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

The Lord now sends us forth / with hands to serve and give, / to make of all the earth / a better place to live. *Repeat*

The angels are not sent / into our world of pain / to do what we were meant / to do in Jesus' name; / that falls to you and me / and all who are made free. / Help us, O Lord, we pray, / to do your will today. *Repeat*

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923. English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Choir Director
Pianist
Choir Accompanist
Reader
Video Production

Ken Carnes
Sue Hunter
Sandy Hobbs
Lorri Mohrweis
Jerry Huston

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Visitors, Guests and Friends! Let us know that you are here by using this QR code. We are so happy that you have joined us in worship.



WELCOME SESSIONS are an opportunity for new and long-time visitors to learn about our church and how you can be more connected to our ministry. You will meet other prospective members, learn about our vision, mission and values, our plans and our various ministries. Our next Welcome Session is Monday, May 6th from 10am - noon. So that we may have sufficient materials, please call the church office (623-977-6000, ext. 100) to register. Hope to see you there!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY @ 10AM canceled this week.

RACHEL'S DAY – Collections for Child Crisis Arizona are being received in the lobby until April 28th. Please take a Rachel's Day flyer from the table that lists the "most needed" items on the backside. Your very generous donations are so greatly appreciated and needed. Thank You!

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, April 30th on the menu this month we have sausage supreme, scrambled eggs, potato patty, fruit medley, orange juice, coffee. Come early for coffee and fellowship beginning at 8:00 am, with breakfast served at about 8:25 am. As usual, there will be a devotional discussion after the meal. Don't forget to sign up.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – Trouble hearing at worship service? Stop in at the Audio Room at the back of the sanctuary and you'll be fitted with our new equipment.

YOUTUBE - If you can't make it to in person to our Saturday or Sunday service Spirit of Grace is on YouTube. If you enjoy the content don't forget to 'like, subscribe, or hit the notification bell' and you'll be notified when videos are posted. You can watch or hear the service from the comfort of your bed, backyard or even when on the road.

MEALS OF JOY - When someone comes home from the hospital, is ill at home or has a death in the family, the last thing they think about is preparing a nutritious meal. The goal of Meals of Joy is to assist with needed healing through food. This is a pilot program for 6 months. It will then be evaluated for continuation based on use, effectiveness, and continued funding. Call the church office 623-977-6000 or Deborah Frusciano 602-909-8369.

GRIEFSHARE – The 13-session class will resume September 7th. Griefshare is a space where you can find hope, healing and strength to rebuild your life. To register Call: Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church (623)977-6000 or online at griefshare.org. Deborah Frusciano: 602-909-8369.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR
April 27 – May 5

Saturday, April 27

5:00 pm Service

Sunday, April 28

9:30 am Service

Monday, April 29

Tuesday, April 30

9:00 am Staff meeting
12:00 pm Counseling Ministry
*By appointment only
with Dr. Joe Dramise
4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 1

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*
*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise
10:00 am no Wed. Bible Study
1:00 pm Card Ministry
2:00 Pm WELCA Board Meeting

Thursday, May 2

Friday, May 3

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly

Saturday, May 4

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, May 5

9:30 am Worship