

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024**

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

OUR MISSION

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

PRELUDE

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"
"Thine is the Glory"

arr. Marianne Kim
arr. Marvin Gaspard

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

ENTRANCE

"Easter is Here"

Joyful Spirit Singers

EASTER DECLARATION AND INVOCATION

Friends in Christ! The darkness has passed. The promise of God from before all time is fulfilled. For God so loved the world that the only Son of God came in order to save it. The love of God has redeemed us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice with the heavens! Dance with the stars! Leap with all creation! Praise and bless the Lord our God, for Christ, who died our death has triumphed and won for us eternal life!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

On this blessed Easter morning we worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! / our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! / who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! / suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! / unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia! / who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! / sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! / praise eternal as his love; Alleluia! / praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! / Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4; tr. Lyra Davidica, London, 1708, sts. 1-3. Public Domain.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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 the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Crown Him Lord this Easter Day"

Joyful Spirit Singers

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you!

READING Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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!

GOSPEL Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"The Story Went On"

Pastor Scott Hackler

HYMN OF THE DAY "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"

I know that my Redeemer lives! / What comfort this sweet sentence gives! / He lives, he lives, who once was dead; / he lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; / he lives eternally to save; / he lives exalted, throned above; / he lives to rule his church in love.

He lives to silence all my fears; / he lives to wipe away my tears; / he lives to calm my troubled heart; / he lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, all glory to his name! / He lives, my Savior, still the same; / what joy this blest assurance gives: / I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt. Public Domain.

APOSTLE'S 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

*response: God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

OFFERING "The Lord of the Dance" arr. Mac Huff, Sung by Sue Hunter

Refrain:

"Dance then whoever you may be. / I am the Lord of the Dance" said He, / "and I'll lead you all where ever you may be, / And I'll lead you all in the Dance," said He.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and what we are about to receive. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

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.

God of resurrection joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

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 "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! / He is now the Living One; / from the gloomy halls of death / Christ, the conqueror, has gone, / bright forerunner to the skies / of his people, yet to rise.

Jesus lives! Why do you weep? / Why that sad and mournful sigh? / Christ who died our brother here / lives our brother still on high, / lives forever to bestow / blessings on his church below.

Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, / life eternal waits for you; / joined to Christ, your living head, / where he is, you shall be too; / with the Lord, at God's right hand, / as a victor you shall stand.

Jesus lives! Let all rejoice. / Praise him, ransomed of the earth. / Praise him in a nobler song, / cherubim of heav'nly birth. / Praise the victor king, whose sway / sin and death and hell obey.

Hallelujah! Angels, sing! / Join with us in hymns of praise. / Let your chorus swell the strain / which our feebler voices raise: / Glory to our God above / and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" arr. Sharon Elery Rodgers

Choir Director	Ken Carnes
Pianist	Sue Hunter
Choir Accompanist	Sandy Hobbs
Online Scripture Reader	Mary Ann Vanhart
Saturday Usher Coordinator	Glenda Jones
Sunday Usher Coordinator	Rich Frusciano
Audio/Lighting	Richard Johnson, Larry & Lorri Mohrweis
	David Weeks

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 and committed 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, April 8th 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!

GRIEFSHARE – Thursdays until April 18th from 10:00am – 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. To register Call: Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church (623)977-6000 or online at griefshare.org. Deborah Frusciano: 602-909-8369.

LIVING WELL WITH OLDER EYES – please join us April 3, 10:00 am with Dennis W. Siemsen on how to protect your vision and reduce the risk for long term complications. Dennis will discuss how the visual system changes with age, the most common age-related eye diseases, and how to adapt to vision.

MEMORY CARE WORKSHOP – April 17, 9:00 am to 12: 00 pm. If you or loved ones are experiencing Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia there are often more questions than answers. Join Shelly Drews, dementia educator, to answer all your questions. The event is free, and lunch will be served. Contact Deborah Frusciano at 602-909-8369 for further information.

GAME DAY - April 14 at 1:30 pm for only \$5. Bunco, Joker and Dominoes.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS – Nearly half of all adults in the United States have high blood pressure. Your risk for high blood pressure goes up as you get older. So before heading out to your favorite restaurant for breakfast, get your blood pressure checked – it only takes a few minutes! Blood pressures will be checked Sunday, April 21, immediately following the service.

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. All hearing sets are sanitized before each person uses them.

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.

CINCO DE MAYO - May 2 at 3:30 pm it's a fiesta time add a little balance to your life with some much-needed fun, food and music for \$25 in the fellowship. Don't forget to practice your dance moves and remember balance is the key!

FOOD BANK OFFERING - Bring your cash or check donations next Sunday. **Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.** Luke 3:11

SUNDAY SCHEDULE CHANGE – Starting April 7th there will be only one service available at 9:30 am.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR
April 1-7

Monday, April 1

Office closed.

1:00 pm Card ministry

2:00 pm WELCA Board meeting

Tuesday, April 2

9:00 am Staff meeting

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

*By appointment only

with Dr. Joe Dramise

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

4:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 4

9:00 am Online Worship Video

10:00 am GriefShare

Friday, April 5

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

Saturday, April 6

5:00 pm Worship

Wednesday, April 3

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am

"Living Well with Older Eyes"

Sunday, April 7

9:30 am Worship