

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**April 6-7, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

**OUR MISSION**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"  
"How Can I Keep from Singing"

arr, B. Wolaver, Sandy Hobbs  
arr, by L. Larson, Sandy Hobbs

**MINISTRY MINUTE**

"Meals of Joy"

Deborah Frusciano

**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                    Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! / Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! /  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! / Sing, ye heavens and earth, reply,  
Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! / Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
/ Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! / Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! / Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
/ Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! / Where's thy victory, boasting grave?  
Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! / Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! /  
Made like him like him we rise, Alleluia! / Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,  
Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, 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**

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace  
of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we  
say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**ANTHEM****"You Raise me Up"**

by R. Lovland, pianist Priscilla Romkema

**PEACE PASSING**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.****READING Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life

**Thanks be to God!****PSALM: Psalm 133**

<sup>1</sup>How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! <sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. <sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

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

**THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** "Holding On to Thomas and You!" Pastor Scott Hackler

**HYMN OF THE DAY "We Walk by Faith"**

We walk by faith and not by sight; / with gracious words draw near, / O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: / "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side, / nor follow where you trod; / but in your promise we rejoice, / and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; / and may our faith abound / to call on you when you are near / and seek where you are found:

For you, O resurrected Lord, / are found in means divine: / beneath the water and the word, / beneath the bread and wine.

And when our life of faith is done, / in realms of clearer light / we may behold you as you are, / with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, 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:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**OFFERING**

**Sat:** "How Can I Keep from Singing" arr. by L. Larson  
**Sun:** "My Tribute" arr. A. Crouch: Vocalist, Pastor Gary Benson

*Refrain:*

To God be the glory, / to God be the glory, / to God be the glory / for the things he has done. / With His blood He has saved me; / with His pow'r He has raised me, / to God be the glory / for the things He has done.

**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.

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of good gifts,  
**receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring  
of eternal life. 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.**

**INVITATION      "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  
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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.**

Generous God,

**at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Beloved, you are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN      "Thine is the glory"**

Thine is the glory, / risen, conqu'ring Son; / endless is the vict'ry / thou o'er death hast won! / Angels in bright raiment / rolled the stone away, / kept the folded grave-clothes / where thy body lay.

*Refrain*

Thine is the glory, / risen, conqu'ring Son; / endless is the vict'ry / thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee, / risen from the tomb! / Lovingly he greets thee, / scatters fear and gloom; / let his church with gladness / hymns of triumph sing, / for the Lord now liveth; / death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee, / glorious Prince of life; / life is naught without thee; / aid us in our strife; / make us more than conqu'rors, / through thy deathless love; / bring us safe through Jordan / to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939. Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God.**

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Choir Director             | Ken Carnes             |
| Pianist                    | Sue Hunter             |
| Choir Accompanist          | Sandy Hobbs            |
| Online Scripture Reader    | Cathy Pierce           |
| 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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** – Join us in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, when Pastor Elaine Siemsen will present The Easter Witness Part 1. Come discuss the meaning and uncovering of Gospel writers.

**RACHEL'S DAY** – Collections for Child Crisis Arizona continue in the Narthex until April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Your very generous donations are so greatly appreciated and needed. Thank You!

**GAME TIME** - April 14 at 1:30pm. Come and learn to play or to join in the fun of playing Bunco, Joker, or Dominos. Have an afternoon of fellowship, snacks, and fun & laughter. Cost \$5. SIGN UP THIS WEEKEND OR NEXT.

**CINCO DE MAYO** - Thursday night, May 2, starting at 3:30, we will celebrate the Mexican tradition, starting with various activities and music. Games like Trivia, know your Spanish,

musical chairs and burrito relay. Then end the afternoon with a delicious catered Mexican dinner of beef tacos and chicken enchiladas, and Tres Leches Cake! Cost \$25. TICKETS GO ON SALE THIS WEEKEND through April 21!!

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY** – Looking for a way to make a real difference? Join other SOG volunteers packing food boxes at the Valley View Community Food Bank on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. To sign up and receive more details about, please email [marvinbrinkman@gmail.com](mailto:marvinbrinkman@gmail.com)

**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 9:30 am service.

**GRIEFSHARE** – Thursdays until April 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://griefshare.org). Deborah Frusciano: 602-909-8369.

**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.

**EARTH DAY PRAYER** This weekend you can find a green sheet with prayers from the Civic Engagement Ministry. Please feel free to take these with you for your daily devotions and to share with others. If you are leaving for the summer, or if you don't always make it to week-end services, we would be happy to send you these prayers. Just send me your email address and we will add you to the list. Send to Nancy Jacob at [Nljacob@aol.com](mailto:Nljacob@aol.com). Thank you for your prayers. Nancy Jacob

**VALLEY METRO RIDECHOICE PROGRAM** – Did you know that anyone over the age of 65 who lives in the City of Surprise qualifies for transportation to anywhere in a 7-mile radius of your home. There are also options for those needing to go longer distances or who live in other cities. Valley Metro RideChoice has easy access to a large network of rideshare transportation providers including Uber, taxicabs and other wheelchair-accessible vehicles. Call [607-716-2100](tel:607-716-2100) to apply. Please, share this information with anyone who needs a ride.

**FLOWERS** - Joe and Kelly Schram are celebrating their 46th Wedding Anniversary.



**SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR**

**April 6 – 14**

**Saturday, April 6**

5:00 pm Service

**Sunday, April 7**

9:30 am Service

**Monday, April 8**

9:30 am Martha Circle

10:00 am Welcome session

1:00 pm Mary Circle

**Tuesday, April 9**

9:00 am Staff meeting

9:30 am Rachel Circle

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

\*By appointment only

with Dr. Joe Dramise

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, April 10**

9:00 am Counseling Ministry\*

\*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am Bible Study

**Thursday, April 11**

9:30 am Deborah circle

10:00 am GriefShare

1:00 pm Elizabeth Circle

**Friday, April 12**

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

**Saturday, April 13**

5:00 pm Worship

**Sunday, April 14**

9:30 am Worship

1:30 pm **GAME TIME**