

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**April 13-14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler
Pastor Eliene Siemsen, Pastor Gary Benson**

OUR MISSION

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

PRELUDE

"Near To the Heart of God"

Sandy Hobbs

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MINUTE

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 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.

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

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.

PEACE PASSING

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

READING Acts 3:12-19

¹²[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?¹³The 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. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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 Luke 34:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look 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." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; / there is no shadow of turning with thee; / thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; / as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! / Morning by morning new mercies I see; / all I have needed thy hand hath provided; / great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, / sun, moon, and stars in their courses above / join with all nature in manifold witness / to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, / thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; / strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, / blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

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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

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

OFFERING

"Healer of Every Ill"

Marvin Brinkman

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, / ord 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.

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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 "Go My Children with My Blessing"

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. / Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. / In my love's baptismal river / I have made you mine forever. / Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. / Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. / Here you heard my dear Son's story, / here you touched him, saw his glory. / Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. / Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. / Here my Spirit's power filled you, / here my tender comfort stilled you. / Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

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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

David Sitzman

Audio/Lighting

Richard Johnson

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, 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!

RACHEL'S DAY – Collections for Child Crisis Arizona are being received in the lobby until May 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!

TODAY IS GAME DAY - at 1:30 pm. Come & join us to learn or to play Dominos, Bunco, or Pegs & Joker. You may sign up after the service or just drop in. Snacks and prizes included. Cost \$5

CINCO DE MAYO - Thursday, May 2 at 3:30 pm. Come join us as we start with some activities such as Trivia, Burrito Relay, Know your Spanish, Musical Maracas, and Loteria. Then we'll end the day with a traditional Mexican dinner complete with Tres Leches Cake. Cost \$25. Last day to register is April 23-don't miss out!

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.

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.

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 20th, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. To sign up and receive more details about, please email marvinbrinkman@gmail.com

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.

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.

COMFORT QUILTERS – Will meet Tuesday April 16th, 9am-1pm. Blessing and sincere thanks to those who donate their time, talent and treasure to Comfort Quilters.

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.

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.

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

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR: Diane Mahnke has provided flowers to remember and celebrate the life of her husband Donald Mahnke. Donald died on March 28th and would have celebrated his 90th birthday April 10th.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR

April 13 – 21

Saturday, April 13

5:00 pm Service

Sunday, April 14

9:30 am Service

1:30 pm *Game Day*

Monday, April 15

Tuesday, April 16

9:00 am Staff meeting

9:00 Comfort Quilters

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

*By appointment only

with Dr. Joe Dramise

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 17

9:00 am Memory Care workshop

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

Thursday, April 18

9:30 am Deborah circle

10:00 am GriefShare

1:00 pm Council Meeting

Friday, April 19

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

Saturday, April 20

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, April 21

9:30 am Worship