

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**April 20-21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter**

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

OUR MISSION

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

PRELUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Wolver

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! / Now is the triumph of our king! / To all the world glad news we bring: / Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; / death's mighty stone is rolled away, / let all the world rejoice and say: / Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory / that love, that life which cannot die, / and sing with hearts uplifted high: / Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, / and sing today with one accord, / the life laid down, the life restored: / Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt. (c) 1952, 1980 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

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 Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

Healer of Every Ill

Joyful Spirit Singers

PEACE PASSING

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

READING 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. ³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. ⁴Though 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. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

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

THE GOSPEL John 10:11-18

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Head, Heart, Soul and Hand"

Pastor Elaine Siemsen

HYMN OF THE DAY "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

The King of love my shepherd is, / whose goodness faileth never; / I nothing lack if I am his / and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, / my ransomed soul he leadeth / and, where the verdant pastures grow, / with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, / but yet in love he sought me, / and on his shoulder gently laid, / and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, / with thee, dear Lord, beside me, / thy rod and staff my comfort still; / thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; / thine unction grace bestoweth; / and, oh, what transport of delight / from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so, through all the length of days, / thy goodness faileth never. / Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise / within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877. 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

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.

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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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 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.

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

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 “He Leadeth Me”

He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought! / Oh, words with heav'nly comfort
fraught! / Whate'er I do, where'er I be, / still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, / by his own hand he leadeth me. / His faithful
foll'wer I would be, / for by his hand he leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, / sometimes where Eden's bowers
bloom, / by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, / still 'tis God's hand that leadeth
me. *Refrain*

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, / Nor ever murmur nor repine; / content,
whatever lot I see, / since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

And when my task on earth is done, / when by thy grace the vict'ry's won, /
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, / since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Choir Director

Ken Carnes

Pianist

Sue Hunter

Choir Accompanist

Sandy Hobbs

Online Scripture Reader

Judy butz

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 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 - Join us in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday, April 10th, when Pastor Elaine Siemsen will present The Easter Witness Part 2. Come discuss the meaning and uncovering of Gospel writers.

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!

CINCO DE MAYO - This is the last weekend to get your tickets for Cinco de Mayo on Thursday, May 2, starting at 3:30pm. You may register online by going to: spiritofgrace.com. Click on fellowship events and complete the info requested or you may get your tickets today in the narthex, or you may walk into the church office on Tuesday and purchase a ticket with cash or check. **HOWEVER, APRIL 23 is the LAST DAY to register!** The caterer wants the count the next day. Cost: \$25 includes a full Mexican dinner, prizes, and lots of fun.

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.

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 20 – 28

Saturday, April 20

5:00 pm Service

Sunday, April 21

9:30 am Service

Monday, April 22

Tuesday, April 23

9:00 am Staff meeting

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

*By appointment only
with Dr. Joe Dramise

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 24

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am Wed. Bible Study

Thursday, April 25

Friday, April 26

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly

Saturday, April 27

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, April 28

9:30 am Worship