

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**April 10 & 11, 2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace  
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**

***OUR VISION***

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TEMPLE TALK: “Rachel’s Day”** ..... Debra Cunningham

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Thine Is the Glory”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “Christ is Alive!”**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. / The cross stands empty to the sky. / Let streets and homes with praises ring. / Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

In ev’ry insult, rift, and war, / where color, scorn, or wealth divide, / Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, / and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring / good news to this and ev’ry age, / till earth and sky and ocean ring / with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of**

**your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: 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 the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “The Holy City”** ..... Rick Bredlie

**THE PSALM: Psalm 133** ..... Barbara Barone

How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity! It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe. It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

**THE READING: 1 John 1:5-10** ..... Barbara Barone

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

**P:** Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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

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.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.” 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord,  
**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON: "From Doubt? To Discovery" . . . . . Pastor Gary Benson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Rock of Ages"**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, / let me hide myself in thee; / let the water and the blood, / from thy riven side which flowed, / be of sin the double cure; / cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands / can fulfill thy law's demands; / could my zeal no respite know, / could my tears forever flow, / all for sin could not atone; / thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; / simply to thy cross I cling. / Naked, come to thee for dress; / helpless, look to thee for grace; / foul, I to the fountain fly; / wash me, Savior, or I die.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778. Public Domain.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P:** Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P:** 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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

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

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN: "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art"**

My God, how wonderful thou art, / thy majesty how bright! / How beautiful thy mercy seat / in depths of burning light!

How wonderful, how beautiful / the sight of thee must be – / thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r, / and awesome purity!

Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, / almighty as thou art, / for thou hast stooped to ask of me / the love of my poor heart.

My God, how wonderful thou art, / thou everlasting friend! / On thee I stay my trusting heart / till faith in vision end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863. Public Domain.

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Hymn Vocalists: Ken Carnes, Nancy Newman, Dave Seaburg, Gerry Seaburg

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