

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 25, 2021 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

Flowers

Flowers are sponsored by John and Marge Sanger and Debbie Sanger and Frank Clauss in celebration of John and Marge's 60th wedding anniversary.

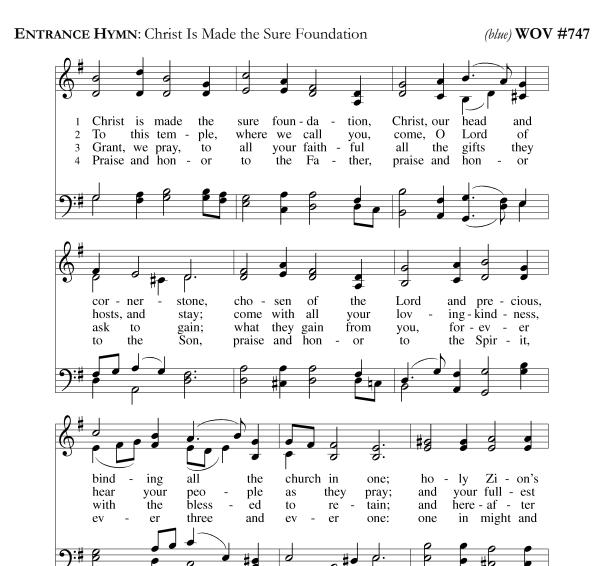
As We Gather

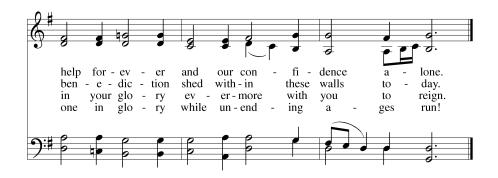
Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, with images both familiar and foreign set before us in the readings. Familiar because we know these readings; foreign because most of no longer have connections to an agrarian, pastoral way of life. We can relate to feeling lost, however. We know what it means to be exhausted, to be weary of the wolves of evil, to journey through death's dark vale. In all of this, we hear again that we are not alone. A Shepherd who is good cares for us and journeys with us. He promises to bring us back to still waters and verdant pastures, to the feast of the Kingdom itself. To do this, he is willing to lay down his life for us. He does this willingly, joining us in death in order to lift us back into life. Restored, we are sent with goodness and mercy to bring others into God's expanding flock of grace.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Richard Proulx





Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

GREETING

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Worthy Is Christ

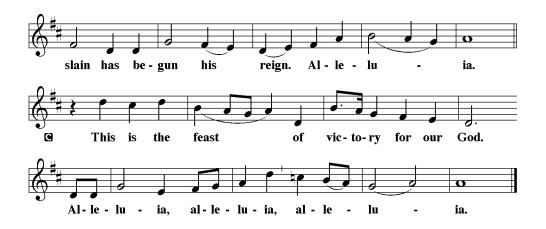
Richard Hillert

Women sing parts marked I. Men sing parts marked II.

All sing parts marked I.







PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- **P** Let us pray.

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.

G Amen.



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5–12

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd.

John Folkening

- The Lord | is my shepherd;*

 I shall not | be in want.
- He makes me lie down | in green pastures* and leads me be- | side still waters.
- L He re- | vives my soul* and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.
- Though 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.
- Let You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,* and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

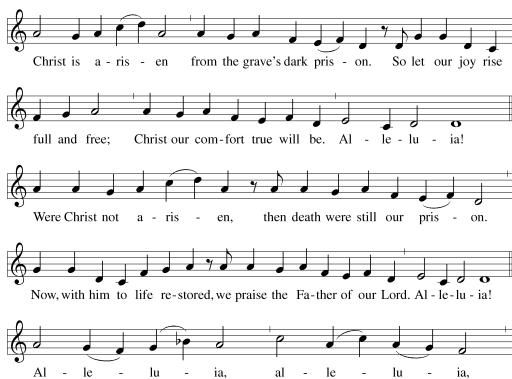
We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

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.

- The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN: Christ Is Arisen





Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967, alt. Music: CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1533

Text © 1967 Concordia Publishing House

HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I 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."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Crossing the Valley

Pastor David R. Lyle John 10:11–18; Psalm 23



- 5 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.

NICENE CREED

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- 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.

Giving is one of the ways we participate in all that God is doing through Grace.

<u>Click here</u> to give online, or visit <u>GraceRiverForest.org</u>.

Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt,

The Lord is my faithful shepherd,

Dem ich mich ganz vertraue,

In whom I place my trust completely,

Zur Weid er mich, sein Schäflein, führt

To pasture he leads me, his little lamb,

Auf schöner grünen Aue,

In a beautiful green meadow,

Zum frischen Wasser leit er mich,

To fresh water he leads me,

Mein Seel zu laben kräftiglich

My soul to refresh powerfully

Durch selig Wort der Gnaden.

Through blessed word of grace.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- **A** Lord, in your mercy,
- **@** hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **A**men.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

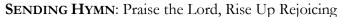
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

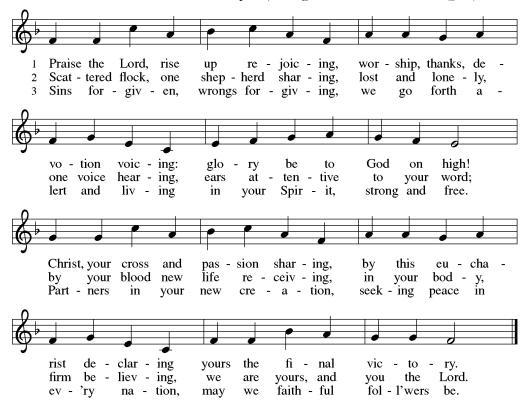
+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P May God, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk in newness of life.
 Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen.



(green) LBW #196



Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

- Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- **A** Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.
- Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

Michael D. Costello

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister
The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister
Rich Schubkegel, assisting minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Gwen Gotsch, soloist
Christine Janzow Phillips and Meg Busse, oboists
Justin Martin, videographer
Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Diane Amati Anne-Marie Bogdan

Rose Mary Anderson Ed Borg

Paul Nelson Joan Koerber Annalise Balock Rosemary Cheatem Jerry Koenig Pat Scala Cathy Barker Carl & Donna Gruendler Carolyn Martin Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Jim Barker David Gruendler Beth Smoots McClanahan Tom Swanson

Len Berghaus Patricia Herendeen Karen McMahon

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel)

Sophie Bartell (granddaughter of Marvin and Judy Bartell)

James Beglin (cousin of Cathy Schnittker)

Francis Benson (sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat)

Karen Berglund (friend of Carol Stanger)

Florence Breed (cousin of Irmgard Swanson)

Ken Briggs (friend of many at Grace)

Nancy Brinkman (friend of Karen Brunssen)

Family of Jim Cozzi (friends of Diana Sicuro)

Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack)

Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel)

Clara Dorsey (mother of Jo-Ellyn Dorsey)

Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Benjamin Galiher (nephew of Paul May)

Luke Gawencka (friend of Eunice Spurgat)

Stacy Gibb and family (friends of Kristin Vogen)

Thomas Griffith (son-in-law of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason)

Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner)

Alice Hollis (friend of Marge Sanger)

John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner)

Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson)

Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten)

Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat)

George Kozuchowski (friend of Timothy Douma)

Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson)

Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson)

Tim Kuehnert (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Maxx Kusper (friend of Deb Maxwell)

Lily (friend of Carrie Douma)

Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel)

Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli)

Kathy Lyons (sister of Karin Danganan)

Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb

Jennifer Murtoff

Maxwell)

Bob Jandeska

Julie Novak (daughter of Eunice Spurgat)

Elaine Pierce (friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson)

Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt)

James Powers (friend of Al Swanson)

Sarah Ponder (friend of Hans and Donna Dumpys)

Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott)

Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson)

John Rohleder (friend of Sandy Grams)

Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

John Schuurman (friend of Timothy Douma)

Lindsay Shaner (brother of Bob Shaner)

Kim Shannon (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner)

Huxley Shoup and family (friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner)

Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten)

Lee Stephens (brother of Tony)

Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester)

Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone)

Mary Jo Thies-Dietrich (mother of Heidi Bohlmann)

Jan Thomson (sister-in-law of Christine Phillips)

Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel)

Kim Walsh (niece of Cathy Schnittker)

Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz)

Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen)

Daniel Wenzel (friend of Pat Anderson)

Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas)

Tim White (brother of Beverly White)

Nola Williams (Grace School student)

Deborah Wilson (niece of Carolyn Garber)

Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik)

Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher)

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Harmony Community Church Food Pantry

Thanksgiving for

The 60th wedding anniversary of John and Marge Sanger

For those who mourn

Donald Hostetler (uncle of Larry Garber) Susan Kernc (cousin of Al Swanson) Tyson May (cousin of Larry Garber)

Those serving in the armed services

Daniel Behrens (relative of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska)
Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus)
Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout)
Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks)
David Danford (son of John and Karen)
E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting)
Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (Germany) Drew Krueger (England)

Those who are homebound

Christopher Davis
Marie Gierke
Ronald Gresens
Gloria Hillert
Carolyn Martin
Joanne Nelson
Barbara Rinnan
Kathleen Wrobel

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oakhill Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Bradley Larson (consin of Rhea Sprecher)
Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone)
Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/ Roberta Gillespie)
Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat)
Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S)	
E-MAIL ADDRESS _	
MAILING ADDRESS .	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
PHONE NUMBER _	

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- □ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail. Sunday Is Coming.
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me
 - via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.



7300 Division Street River Forest, Illinois 60305 Phone: (708) 366-6900 Fax: (708) 366-0966

www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus Michael D. Costello, Cantor Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor William Koehne, Principal Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager

Gwen Gotsch. Communications Coordinator Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance