

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 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.

As We Gather

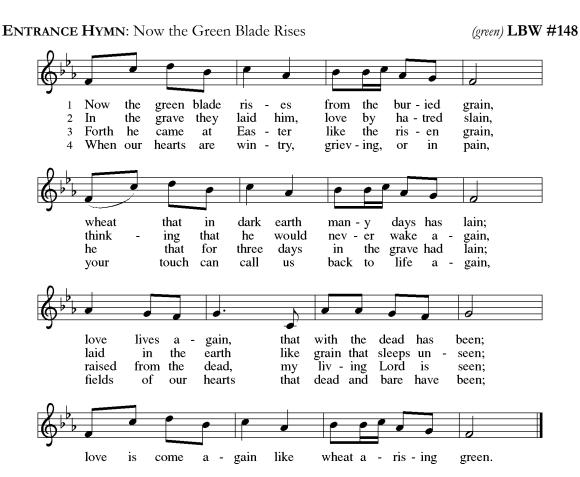
In baptism we have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and through that work of God we have already died to sin and risen to new life. His resurrection life has become our lives too. Those powerful waters of promise not only connect us to Christ our vine, but they also continually nourish, sustain, and strengthen us so that our branches begin to bear much fruit. The Spirit that has been poured out upon us in those waters assures us that God abides in us, and we abide in God. This is who we are. This world's trees only seem to produce more sin and death. Yet, forever connected to the tree of life himself we produce all varieties of the fruits of love, testifying with our very lives that Christ is alive.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: String Quartet #10 in E-flat Major

Antonín Dvořák

III. Romanza: Andante con moto



Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

GREETING

4

- 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.
- **a** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Worthy Is Christ

Richard Hillert





PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Psalm 22:24–30 Michael D. Costello

ANTIPHON: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord!

L My praise is of him in the | great assembly;*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.

- The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | Lord shall praise him:* "May your heart | live forever!"
- All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord,* and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.
- G For kingship belongs | to the Lord;*
 he rules o- | ver the nations.
- To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;* all who go down to the dust | fall before him.
- My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;* they shall be known as the | Lord's forever.
- They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn* the saving deeds that | he has done.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

- **L** 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 15:1-8

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

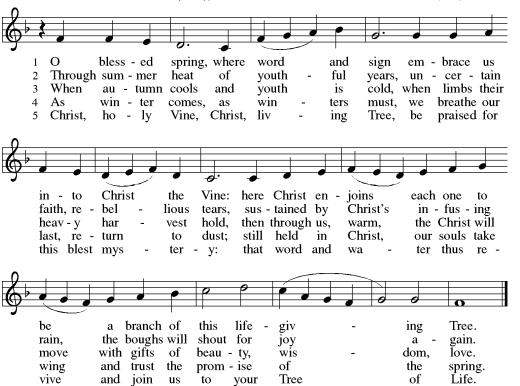
- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Branches Connected to the Tree of Life

Pastor Troy E. Medlin 1 John 4:7–21; John 15:1–8





Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, Admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



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.

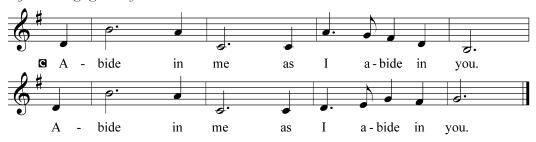
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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>.

We join in singing this refrain:



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- I am the vine, you are the branches. You are the branches, I am the vine.
- **©** REFRAIN
- L Those who abide in me and I in them, those who abide in me bear much fruit.
- **©** REFRAIN
- For apart from me you can do nothing. For apart from me you can do nothing.
- **G** REFRAIN (twice)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- **A** Lord, in your mercy,
- **G** 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.
- C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

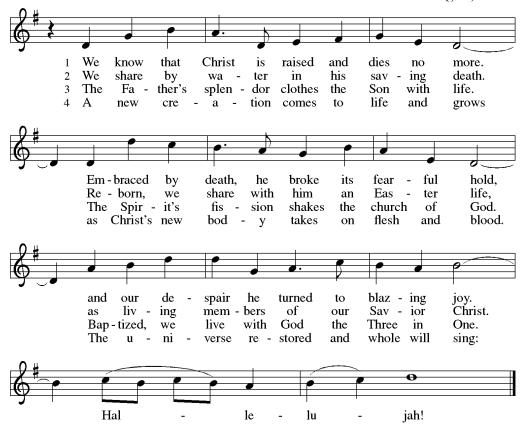
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- 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.
- @ Amen.





Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © John B. Geyer.

DISMISSAL.

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

POSTLUDE: 14 Pieces on Themes of Armenian Folk Songs "The Red Shawl"

Komitas arr. Sergei Aslamazyan

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister
Rebecca Dahlstrom, assisting minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, pianist
Dan Krout, soloist

Kontras Quartet Eleanor Bartsch, violin François Henkins, violin Ben Weber, viola Jean Hatmaker, cello

Justin Martin, videographer Al Swanson, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Diane Amati

Rose Mary Anderson Annalise Balock

Cathy Barker Jim Barker Len Berghaus Anne-Marie Bogdan

Ed Borg

Rosemary Cheatem Carl & Donna Gruendler

David Gruendler Patricia Herendeen

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

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

Pat B. (friend of Pat Anderson)

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)

Seth Flanders (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

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)

Tom 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) Bob Jandeska Joan Koerber Jerry Koenig

Jerry Koenig Pat Sca Carolyn Martin Rich as

Beth Smoots McClanahan

Karen McMahon

Jennifer Murtoff Paul Nelson Pat Scala

Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Tom Swanson

Kathy Lyons (sister of Karin Danganan)

Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

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

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)

Nola Williams (Grace School student)

Deborah Wilson (niece of Carolyn Garber)

Debotati wiisoti (mete of Carotyn Garot

Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik)

Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher)

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Beyond Hunger

Thanksgiving for

The wedding of Marek Zurowski and Kimmy Kim

The 80th birthday of Carol Stanger

The birth of Ruth Cherrill Allen (daughter of Emily Wurth and Ross Allen, granddaughter of Sue and Pat Allen)

Farewell and Godspeed

Bob and Barbara Carlson as they move to Indiana

For those who mourn

Marilyn Krautstrunk

Gerald Parham (father of Nicole Lennie)

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 (cousin 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.

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.



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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 Gwen Gotsch. Communications Coordinator Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager

Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance