



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **8:00a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.

## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

### Today in Worship

We see who Jesus is and who we are because of Him. Jesus is the cornerstone, the foundation upon which God’s people are built. We are His newborn, chosen, priestly people. We are called to proclaim His excellencies to the world around us, always firm and secure, knowing that Christ is an unshakable foundation.



### Ringling of the Bells

**Announcements** (10:30am Service)

**Welcome**

### Opening Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #478  
“The Day of Resurrection”*

**Invocation & Sentences** Ps. 27:1; 147:11; 104:24a, 31a; Is. 2:5b

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**C** The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- P** The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,  
**C** **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**
- P** O LORD, how manifold are Your works!  
**C** **In wisdom have You made them all.**
- P** May the glory of the LORD endure forever.  
**C** **Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

## Confession & Absolution

**P** As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**C** **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

**P** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

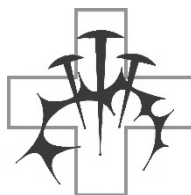
**C** **Amen.**

**P** As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



# Psalm 146



- P** Praise | the Lord! \*  
Praise the LORD, | O my soul!
- C** I will praise the LORD as long | as I live; \*  
**I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.**
- P** Put not your trust in | princes, \*  
in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.
- C** When his breath departs he returns | to the earth; \*  
**on that very day his plans | perish.**
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of | Jacob, \*  
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,
- C** who made heaven and earth, the sea,  
and all that is | in them, \*  
**who keeps faith for- | ever;**
- P** who executes justice for | the oppressed, \*  
who gives food to the | hungry.
- C** The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind. \*  
**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**  
**the LORD loves the | righteous.**
- P** The LORD watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the | fatherless, \*  
but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.
- C** The LORD will reign for- | ever, \*  
**your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!**

**C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | -ginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

## Hymn of Praise

*Lutheran Service Book #482  
"This Joyful Eastertide"*

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, and the truth, and the life. We bless You for His saving work and for the comfort that He brings to troubled hearts. Help us to be faithful to Him to death and so to receive life eternal. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 7:51-60

*"Stephen is stoned and becomes a martyr for Christ."*

**L** The First Reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from Acts, chapters six and seven.

<sup>6:1</sup> Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

<sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

7:2a And Stephen said:

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

*“An exhortation to live lives of Christian love.”*

**L** The Epistle Reading is from First Peter, chapter two.

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Verse

Romans 6:9; John 14:23

**P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**C** **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

*“Jesus says that He is the way, and the truth, and the life.”*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **The Nicene Creed** *8:00am service*

**Faith Paper** *10:30am service*

*Mr. Brad Mutter*

**The Apostles Creed** *10:30am service*

## **Message for Children from God’s Word**

### **Hymn of the Day**

*Lutheran Service Book #633*

*“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”*

### **Sermon**

*Stand*

### **Prayer of the Church**

*Responses after each petition:*

**P** ...let us pray to the Lord:

**G** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** To Him we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### **Offering**

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

*– 1 Peter 2:9*



We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord's Word this morning.

**Offertory** “What Shall I Render” / Psalm 116 LSB p. 159-160

(10:30 a.m. Services continue page 11 of the Worship Folder.)

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8:00 a.m. Service

## Service of the Sacrament

**The Lord's Supper** is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.**

**Preface** Sung LSB p. 160

### Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** “Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB p. 161

**Lord's Prayer** Spoken LSB p. 162



**The Words of our Lord** *Spoken* LSB p. 162

**Pax Domini** *“The Peace of Our Lord”* LSB p. 163

**Agnus Dei** *“Lamb of God”* LSB p. 163

**Distribution Hymns**

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” LSB # 465

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives” LSB # 461

“You Are the Way, Through You Alone” LSB # 526

**Thank the Lord** LSB p. 164

**The Closing Prayer**

**P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may know comfort when our hearts are troubled and our days know challenges. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

**C Amen.**

**Benediction** Numbers 6:24-26

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**Greeting of Peace & Announcements**

**Closing Hymn** *Lutheran Service Book #463*

*“Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia”*

*This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service*

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*10:30 a.m. Service*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

## The Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may know comfort when our hearts are troubled and our days know challenges. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Greeting of Peace

## Closing Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #463*

*“Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia”*



**Grace**  
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