

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



April 28, 2024

10:00am

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Hymn Spirit of Gentleness

#396

Apostolic Greeting

Hymn of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

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

Children's Message Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 8

²⁶An 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 [*Cand-ak-e*], queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then 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.

When 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

The Gospel of Grace

arr. Mark Hayes

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Twas grace, that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

I found free grace and dying love, I'm newborn again,
been a long time a-talkin' 'bout my trials here below.

Free grace, sinner, free grace I'm new born again.

So glad I'm new born again, been a long time a-talkin'
'bout my trials here below.

My savior died for you and me, I'm newborn again,
been a long time a-talkin' 'bout my trials here below.

I know my Lord has set me free, I'm new born again,
been a long time a-talkin' 'bout my trials here below.

Free grace, sinner, free grace I'm new born again.

So glad I'm new born again, been a long time a-talkin'
'bout my trials here below.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

The Second Reading is from 1st John, chapter 4

⁷Beloved, 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.

In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

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

There 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. We love because he first loved us.

Those 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.

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the first staff. The second staff is identical to the first, but it ends with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the second staff.

The Gospel for today comes from John, chapter 15
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹"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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones

Hymn of the Day Here I Am, Lord

#574

BAPTISM AND AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism which Lauren Elizabeth Johnson will celebrate today, and for our confirmands, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

I present, Lauren Elizabeth, who desires to be baptized today.

I present Qwynn Barnes, Eli Scott Gee, Hart Nguyen, Annelise Ram, Theodore Blake Westerlund, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom are made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Profession Of Faith

The candidates for baptism, new members, and confirmation are addressed:

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? If so, say, "I renounce them."

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? If so, say, "I renounce them."

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so, say, "I renounce them."

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 to the dead.*
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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God makes with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Baptism

Lauren Elizabeth Johnson, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth,

cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Lauren with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Lauren Elizabeth, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Lauren and the new members are welcomed with applause.

Confirmation Candidates Are Blessed One At A Time

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in *name* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Prayers of the Church

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

... God of love,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Now Thank We All Our God

J. S. Bach

Offering Prayer

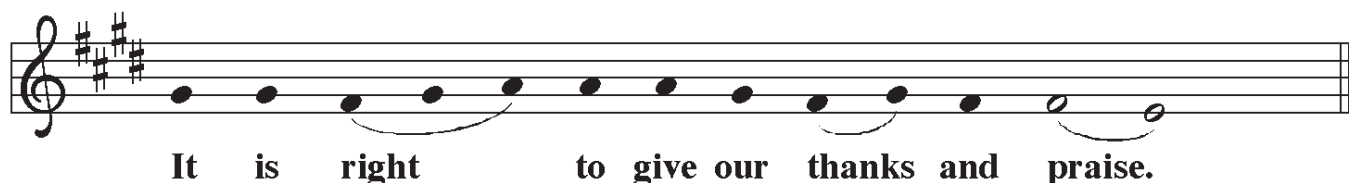
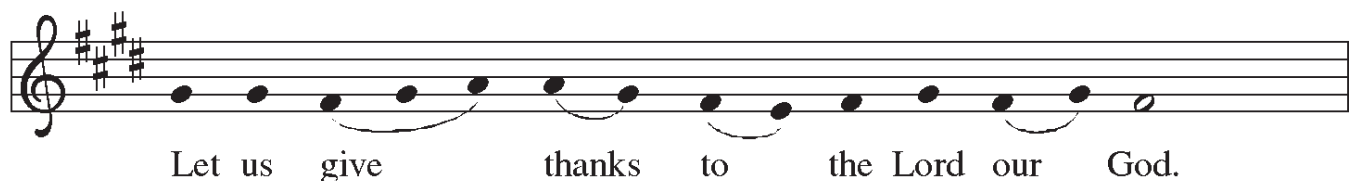
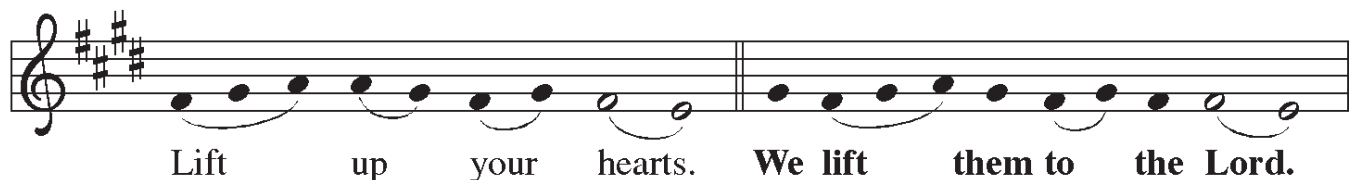
Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

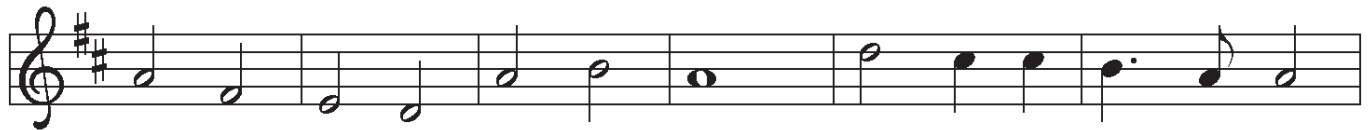


Offering Code for University Lutheran

Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

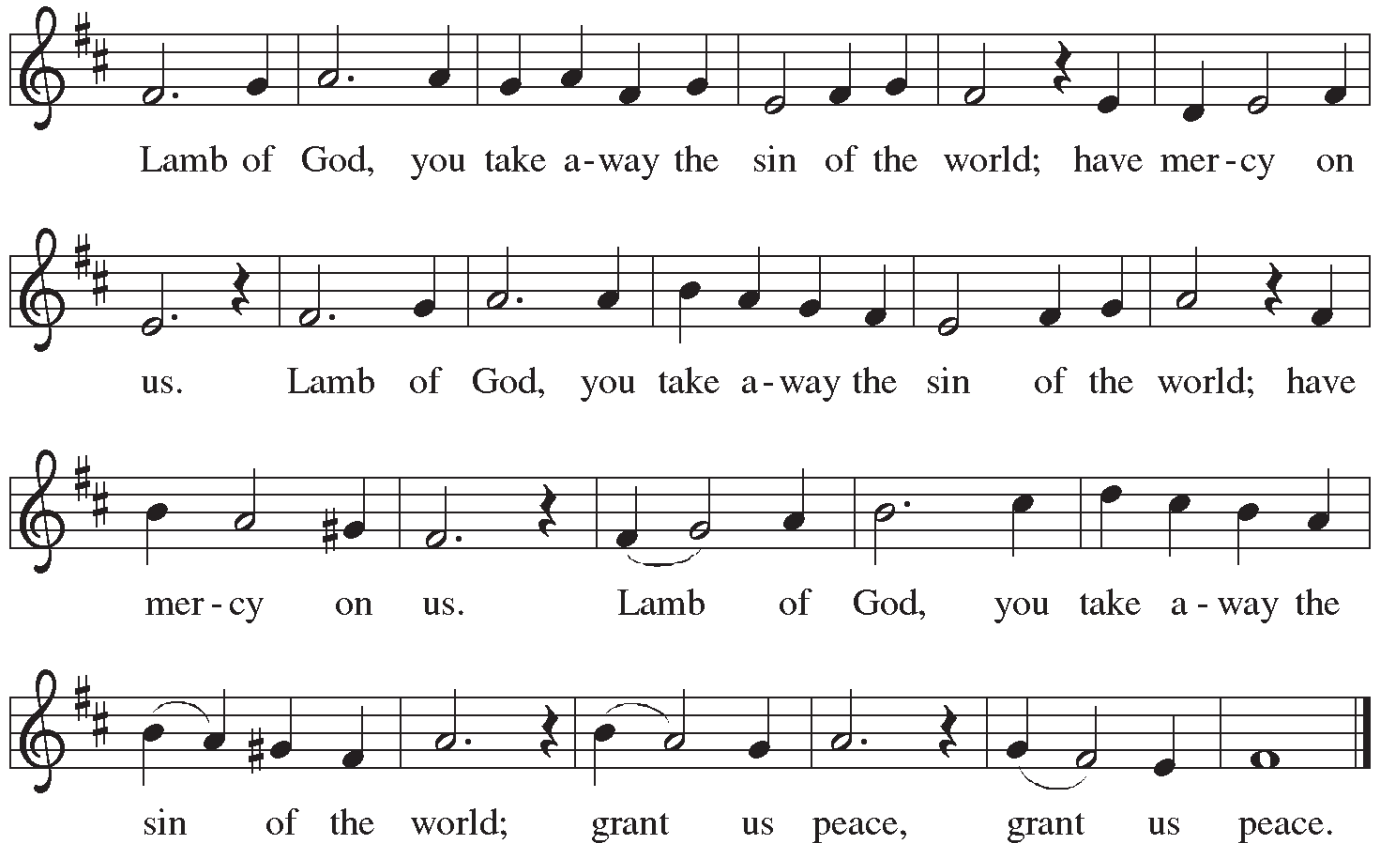
Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music during distribution pianist

Prayer After Communion

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.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#547

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Veni Creator (Come, Holy Spirit)

Duruflé

NAMES OF STUDENTS AND NEW MEMBERS

University Lutheran Confirmands

Qwynn Barnes

Hart Nguyen

Eli Scott Gee

Theodore Blake Westerlund

Grace Lutheran Confirmand

Annelise Ram

Grace Lutheran New Members

Nathan Dickman

Thomas Screnock

Lauren Johnson

Luanne Beckman

Daniel Schoenrock

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones &
Pastor Lori Ruge–Jones

Assisting Minister: Paul Lokken

Reader: Molly Wilson & Adrianna Dahlberg

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Diana Cataldi

Pianist: Rachel Thompson

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (28th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Stepping On – 10am
Prayer Group – 11am
Strong Bodies – 1pm

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 10am
Text Study – 12pm
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

Healthy Living with
Diabetes – 10am
Strong Bodies – 1pm
Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

SUNDAY (5th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am
Foundation Annual
Meeting – 11am

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, ADRC



2024-4-28

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Annual Meeting Notice

Grace Lutheran Foundation Voting Members: You are cordially invited to attend Grace Lutheran Foundation's Annual Meeting Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. (following the 10:00 worship service) at Grace Lutheran Church

We look forward to seeing you May 5th!



Sunday School

Classes will be held during the worship service following the children's message on the following dates:

- May 5
- May 19

Family Choir

The family choir will be rehearsing and singing during the worship service on the following dates:

- Sing: May 12 & 19 (Music Sunday)

Beacon House

The shelter for homeless families will require our support for evening meals on May 12, 13, 14, and 15. Mother's Day is Sunday May 12 and we wish to make it a special meal. Sign up sheets will be at the Lighthouse in the Narthex for all four evening meals. Thank you for your willingness to help these families. Contact Barb Radke for any questions you may have at 715-835-3440.





Cemetery Clean-up

Thanks to all who helped with our second annual Lutheran Cemetery clean-up on April 21. We had people from Grace, Immanuel, and spirit Lutheran churches picking up wreaths, plastic flowers and they even helped cutting up a tree. Hoping to see you again next year for our annual Earth Day clean-up.

Lutheran Cemetery Board

Altar Flowers

This week's altar flowers were given by John and Nancy Schaaf in memory of Doug Radke. Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to donate altar flowers, there are forms available in the entryway between the narthex and the parable chapel. Also, you can order flowers through our website by going to the GIVE page.

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713