

Easter Sunday! Christ is Risen!

The Day: The Gardener

April 1, 2018



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Welcome! We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. We encourage you to register your name on the fellowship pad which you will find at the end of the row where you are sitting. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Hour is held after the Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our worship service today. This meal is weird and wonderful: weird because we actually believe that the bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ; wonderful because Jesus is with us. **Children** who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing. If you are not a member of the LCMS, please talk with the pastor before communion.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION: The wine is made available in both the individual glasses and the common cup. Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. Then the common cup will be offered to those who do not have an individual cup in their hand. The acolyte will then gather the individual glasses. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored in the individual communion glasses.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed in the pew. Please inform the usher of your need.

ATTENDANCE BOOKS PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS ALONG THE RED ATTENDANCE BOOKS IN YOUR ROW AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN IT. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY OF CARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

The Day When God's Goodness Overtakes Evil

The great and glorious day of the Lord! Often we think of fire and brimstone as the Lord judges the earth. But today we see the Day of the Lord fell onto God himself on the cross. Now a new day has dawned, Evil is defeated, Life and light rule the day. Jesus is risen!

Today: The Gardener - We have expectations in this life. We know what McDonald's will taste like, we know it will be hot in the summer, and we know that the dead don't come back to life. However, listen to the story of the Gardener.

(Asterisks (**)) indicate that the people stand)

**** THE OPENING HYMN**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

LW 127

*Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

**** THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: *Christ is risen!*

PEOPLE: HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Pastor: *This is the day.*

PEOPLE: WHEN TEARS ARE WIPED AWAY; SHATTERED HEARTS ARE
MENED; FEARS ARE REPLACED WITH JOY.

Pastor: *This is the day the Lord*

PEOPLE: ROLLS AWAY THE STONE OF FEAR; THROWS OFF DEATH'S
CLOTHES; GOES AHEAD OF US INTO GOD'S FUTURE.

Pastor: *This is the day the Lord has made:*

PEOPLE: DEATH HAS NO FEAR FOR US; SIN HAS LOST ITS POWER OVER US;
GOD OPENS THE TOMBS OF OUR HEARTS TO FILL US WITH LIFE.

**** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

*(We greet one another with the handshake of peace and with the words
"The Peace of the Lord be with you.")*

**** THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

This is the Feast of Victory for Our God
(LW, Divine Service II p. 182)

REFRAIN

**THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY FOR OUR GOD,
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. (REFRAIN)*

*Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his. (REFRAIN)*

*Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation (NO REFRAIN)*

*Blessing, honor, glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (REFRAIN)*

*For the Lamb who was slain
Has begun his reign. Alleluia!*

*This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*During Confession we take time to slow down and realize how we have lost God's
Great Story of goodness. We have served ourselves and our interests above God.*

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: O Almighty God,

**PEOPLE: WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE ENSLAVED TO EVIL AND 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 FAILED TO DO.
WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU WITH OUR WHOLE HEART,
AND WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES.
WE DESERVE TO BE LEFT IN THE DARKNESS OF OUR EVIL AND
SIN.
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.**

Pastor: The Story of Jesus is simply this.....Christ is risen!
Dawn has broken, and new life has sprung forth. In Christ we see the fullness of life. Come, join in. Come, know that you are loved and forgiven. Come, know that life is full of possibility that has no end. There is no dark place where light cannot shine, no awful past that cannot lead to a bright future. You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the promise of new life . Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Creator of all, You have ordained the promise of life from the beginning. Out of nothing You created the world and cultivated all living things. Every spring plants return and new vegetation comes forth. Every year, new life abounds. In our hearts, there is new life now, and in our very cells the promise of eternal life with You. Help us to believe. Help us to share the Good News, because Your love is written on our very DNA. Your love is written into our hearts. You love restores and gives life that is forever. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Amen

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 63: 1-6

<i>Israel needed hope following destruction and exile after God abandoned Zion as a result of Israel's sins</i>

Who is this coming from Edom,
from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?

Who is this, robed in splendor,
striding forward in the greatness of his strength?

"It is I, proclaiming victory,
mighty to save."

Why are your garments red,
like those of one treading the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone;
from the nations no one was with me.

I trampled them in my anger
and trod them down in my wrath;
their blood spattered my garments,
and I stained all my clothing.
It was for me the day of vengeance;
the year for me to redeem had come.
I looked, but there was no one to help,
I was appalled that no one gave support;
so my own arm achieved salvation for me,
and my own wrath sustained me.
I trampled the nations in my anger;
in my wrath I made them drunk
and poured their blood on the ground.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:1-6

John sees an amazing sight. It is something no one had ever seen nor will ever see until that day arrives. He is transported to the end of history only to discover it is no end at all; it is a new beginning. God's plan will be accomplished on earth as it is in heaven, and the new Jerusalem will come down where He will live among His people. All things will become new.

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

All are crushed that their teacher and friend has died such a horrible death. In the first hours of grief, Jesus' followers huddle together in secret in the city, hoping to avoid arrests and executions. They mourn. They grieve. They remember. Three days later, some venture outside the city and return to the place where He was buried. Miraculously, the stone has been rolled back, and the rock-hewn tomb is empty. Has someone taken His body? Are His enemies laying a trap for His followers? Or perhaps—could it be—that the last days have arrived?

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

**** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

7:00 AM SERMON HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing (LW 129)

***Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew his way;
Let all the world rejoice this day: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

10:00 AM SERMON HYMN Hallelujah! What a Savior Choir Only

THE SERMON

Pastor Cris Escher

The Day: The Gardener

**** THE OFFERTORY**

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.***

**** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

(After each petition)

Pastor: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

**** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

*Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat.
Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory;
and where life was lost,
there life has been restored.
And so we praise you*

**PEOPLE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

**** THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (LW 264)

***I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living head!***

***He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule His church in love.***

***He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.***

***He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.***

***He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to free;
He lives to help in time of need.***

***He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!***

***He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.***

***He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!***

Christ the Lord is Risen Today (LW 142)

***"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
All on earth with angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns; and earth, reply.***

***Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er.
Lo! He sets in blood no more.***

***Lives again our glorious king!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?***

***Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n.
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the resurrection, thou!***

Jesus Lives the Victory's won (LW 139)

***Jesus lives! The victory's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.***

*Jesus Lives! To him the throne
There above all things is given.
I shall go where he is gone,
Live and reign with him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.*

*Jesus lives! For me he died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living.
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.*

*Jesus lives! And I am sure
Neither life nor death shall sever
Me from him. I shall endure
In his love, through death, forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.*

*Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense;
This is my confidence.*

**** THE BLESSING**

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

PEOPLE: HE IS RISEN, INDEED. ALLELUIA!

*Pastor: May God bless and keep you this Easter day. May you look up and see
the gardener who has come in humbleness to bring a fruitful life to you
and your neighbors.*

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE CLOSING HYMN**

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

(LW 143)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***The strife is o'er, the battle done.
Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the son of praise begun. Alleluia!***

***The powers of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!***

***The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!***

***He broke the age bound chains of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!***

***Lord, by the stripes which wounded you
From death's sting free your servants too
That we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Today**Sunrise Worship Service****Breakfast****Worship****Korean Church Worship****AA****April 1, 2018****7:00 am****Immediately following Sunrise Service****10:00 am****1:00 pm****7:30 pm****This Week**

LWML

Via de Cristo @ Bocks home

Bible Study with Pastor Russ

Surviving Spouses

Mahjong

Bible Study @Perkin's Restaurant

Scripture Narration

Brownie Troop

MOPS--The Divine Comedy

Korean Church Prayer Meeting

Monday, 1:00pm

Canceled this Week

Tuesday, 11:00am

Tuesday, 12:30pm

Wednesday, 12:00noon

Thursday, 7:00am

Thursday, 11:00am

Thursday, 6:30pm

Friday, 7:00pm

Saturday, 6:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS will resume at 8:45 am on April 8th. Students from grades 4 through 7 will be together in one class taught by Barbara Ruzicka. We will be using the children's room. Friends are welcome. And of course, all adults are invited to participate in the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS No birthdays listed this week.

ANNIVERSARIES Greg & Vicki Platt (35); and Dave & Judy Smith (52), 4/2.

THE LILIES adorning the altar this morning are given to the glory of Jesus, our Savior by various members and friends of Grace. A list of contributors is included in this bulletin.

FLOWER CHART The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to order flowers to adorn the altar for a specific Sunday, please write your name on the appropriate line. The cost per Sunday is \$27.00. We thank you for your help.



Interested in becoming a Member at Grace Lutheran PSL? Come to "Grace Hello." On April 14th, we will have the first of two Hello meetings to introduce you to Grace Lutheran PSL. You will discover what is important to us and how you can show God's Grace both to yourself and your neighbors. Sign up at gracelutheranpsl.com/hello or under the bulletin board.

Casual Game Night The family-friendly, non-competitive game nights were such fun that we're going to make it a regular event! Join in on Friday, April 13th any time after 6:00 pm. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. We have games available, but anyone is welcome to bring something new to try. This is an easy way to envelop friends, family, and neighbors in Christian community as well.



www.GraceLutheranpsl.com

Remember to check out our website and follow us on Facebook. They're both "works-in-progress", but the calendar and information on our website is updated constantly.