



*Stop
doubting
and*

BELIEVE



Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

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EASTER 2

April 16th, 2023

Grace ~ “I am not ashamed of the gospel...”



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

Grace ~ “These are written that you may believe...”



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Grace ~ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

OPENING HYMN:

CW21 Blue: #440 (1-2,4,6) “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

*Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands
for our offenses given;
but now at God’s right hand he stands
and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be
and sing to God right thankfully
loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia!*

*No son of man could conquer death,
such ruin sin had wrought us.
No innocence was found on earth,
and therefore death had brought us
into bondage from of old
and ever grew more strong and bold
and held us as its captive. Alleluia!*

*It was a strange and dreadful strife
when life and death contended.
The victory remained with life,
the reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly saith
that death is swallowed up by death;
disgraced, it lies defeated. Alleluia!*

*So let us keep the festival
to which the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
the sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts
eternal sunshine to our hearts;
the night of sin is ended. Alleluia!*

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: “Fellow believers, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him... Therefore, be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” Acts 2:22-24,36

C: **“What shall I do?” For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake!**

M: “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins... The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:38-39

EASTER’S ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. “Rejoice in the LORD and celebrate, all you righteous, and shout joyfully, all you upright in heart.”**

HYMN:

CW21 Blue: #460 (1,3) “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise.

Sing to God a hymn of gladness,

sing to God a hymn of praise.

He who on the cross a victim

for the world’s salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of glory,

now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to God on high;

alleluia! to the Savior,

who has won the victory;

alleluia! to the Spirit,

fount of love and sanctity;

alleluia, alleluia!

to the triune Majesty.

THE WORD

First Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ Through faith you are being protected by God’s power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

⁶ Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷ so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Verse of The Day

John 20:29b

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

The Gospel Motet

John 20:19-31 / CW21Blue #456 (1,4-9)

A "motet" is a musical score that also includes spoken words. It comes from the French language using the word "mot" which means "word". As the parts of today's gospel lesson is read the congregation will sing the responses using #456: "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

M: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C: ***O sons and daughters of the King,
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

M: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

C: ***That night th' apostles met in fear;
Among them came their Lord most dear
And said: "Peace be unto you here."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

M: Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

C: ***When Thomas afterwards had heard
That Jesus had fulfilled his word,
He doubted if it were the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

M: A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

C: *"Thomas, behold my side," said he,
"My hands, my feet, my body see;
And doubt not, but believe in me."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

M: Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

C: *No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Blessed are they that have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been;
In life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

M: Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

C: *On this most holy day of days
To God your hearts and voices raise
In laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY. HOLY. HOLY



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

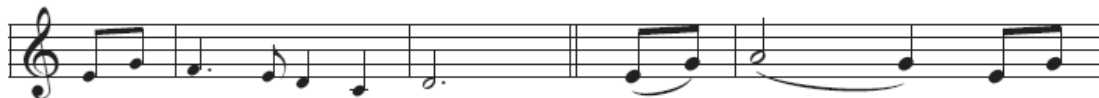
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

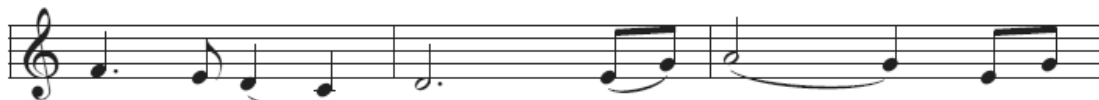
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C O Christ, Lamb of



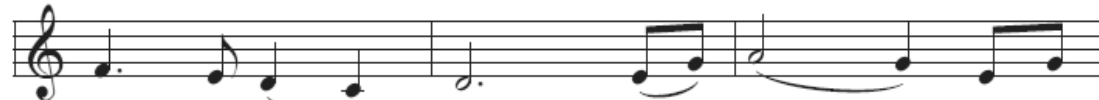
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy. If you would like to discuss "close" communion or any other spiritual matter with the pastor, please indicate this on the Friendship Register.

THE OFFERING

Opportunities to bring your offering to the Lord are provided as you come to communion and also as you leave the sanctuary this morning.

An opportunity to give online can also be used at [Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://www.paypal.com/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed
Imported - Getty

Because He Lives
Imported - Matt Maher

PERSONAL PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this, the true body and blood, of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. The Lord Jesus has paid for all your sins.

THE BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

CW21: #449 "This Joyful Eastertide"

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;

But now is Christ arisen!

Death's flood has lost its chill; Since Jesus crossed the river;

Lover of souls, from ill; My passing soul deliver.

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;

But now is Christ arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest; And for a season slumber

Till trump from east to west; Shall wake the dead in number.

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;

But now is Christ arisen!