

Your Sorrow
WILL TURN TO
Joy



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.

Church Campus: 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503.290.6316– call /text)
School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)
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Easter 3 – April 14, 2024

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**

*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!*

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

-- Psalm 32:1&2

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

THE ABSOLUTION

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever!

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.”**

Psalm 32:11

HYMN:

CW21 #461: *He Is Arisen! Glorious Word*

He is arisen! Glorious Word!

Now reconciled is God, my Lord;

The gates of heav'n are open.

My Jesus did triumphant die,

And Satan's arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

Oh, hear What cheer!

Christ victorious, Rising glorious,

Life is giving. He was dead, but now is living!

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 3:11-20

¹¹While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people came running toward them in utter amazement in the area called Solomon's Colonnade.

¹²When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,^[a] the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of

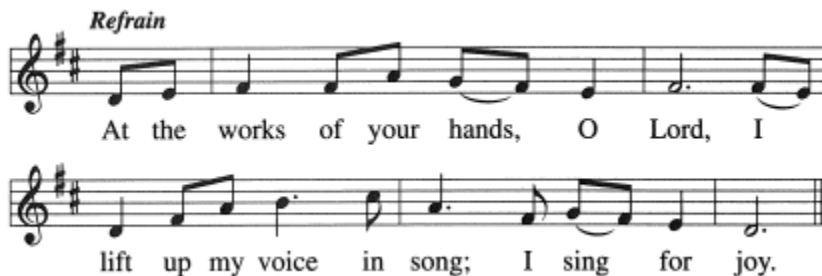
Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. ¹⁵ You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ “Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. ¹⁸ But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹ Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, ²⁰ so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 30

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Sing to the LORD, you *s*aints of his;*
praise his *h*oly name.

For his anger lasts only a *m*oment,*
but his favor lasts a *l*ifetime;

weeping may remain *f*or a night,*
but rejoicing comes in the *m*orning.

Refrain

To you, O LORD, I called;*
to the Lord I cried for *m*ercy.

Hear, O LORD, and be *m*erciful to me;*
O LORD, be my *h*elp.

You turned my wailing into *d*ancing,*
that my heart may sing to you and not be *s*ilent.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Corinthians 15:20-26

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came by a man, the resurrection of the dead also is going to come by a man. ²² For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ they all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ as the firstfruits and then Christ's people, at his coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has done away with every other ruler and every other authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign "until he has put all his enemies under his feet." ²⁶ Death is the last enemy to be done away with.

The Verse of the Day

John 16:20

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. ²⁰ Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. Alleluia.

HYMN:

CW21 #460 (1-2): *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, Christ is risen!

Death at last has met defeat.

See the ancient powers of evil

in confusion and retreat.

Once he died and once was buried;

now he lives forevermore—

Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,

whom we worship and adore.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:24-28

²⁴ Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”

THE NICENE CREED

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

CW-BLUE 676 (1-3) Take and Eat
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*Solo : I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
I am the seed that died to be reborn;
I am the bread that comes from heav'n above;
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.*

Congregation: *Take and eat; take and eat:
this is my body given up for you.
Take and drink; take and drink:
this is my blood given up for you.*

Solo: *I am the way that leads the exile home;
I am the truth that sets the captive free;
I am the life that raises up the dead;
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.*

Congregation: *Take and eat; take and eat:
this is my body given up for you.
Take and drink; take and drink:
this is my blood given up for you.*

Solo: *I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;
I am the gate that guards you night and day;
You are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice;
You are my own: your ransom is my blood.*

Congregation: *Take and eat; take and eat:
this is my body given up for you.
Take and drink; take and drink:
this is my blood given up for you.*

THE SERMON

Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the captives to Zion, we were like dreamers.

²Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

³The LORD has done great things for us. We are glad.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the dry gulches of the Negev.

⁵Those who sow with weeping will reap with joyful shouts.

⁶The one who walks along weeping, carrying a bag of seed to sow,
will come back again with joyful shouts, carrying his sheaves.

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING


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



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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...



The image shows a musical score for the Lord's Prayer. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "R: For Thine is the king-dom and the power and the". The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

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

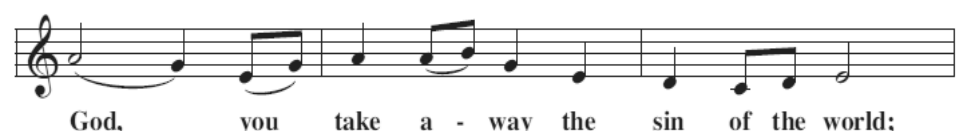
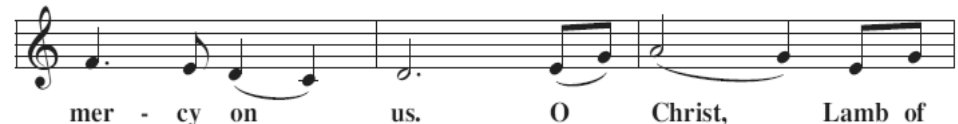
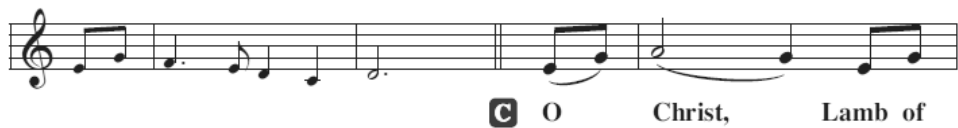
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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



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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

CW Blue#440 "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

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.

HYMN: CW21 Blue: #450 "The Day of Resurrection"

***The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.***

***Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal, of resurrection light
And, list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.***

***Now let the heav'ns be joyful; let earth her song begin.
Let all the world keep triumph, and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy shall have no end.***