HE LEADS ME HE GUIDES ME HE WALKS WITH ME HE PURSUES ME HE CARRIES ME.

IS MY



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 Sreet, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503.290.6316 – call /text) School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text) Preschool: 2252 SE 92nd Street, ECE Director Tammy Godish (503.312.4230 - call /text)

EASTER 4 – Good Shepherd Sunday April 30th, 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

Call to Worship

This morning we welcome the Evergreen Lutheran High School choir who will lead us in word and song as we walk together by faith. Please join in singing the hymn "Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink."

FAITH

405

Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink



6 Lord, give us such a faith as this, And then, whate'er may come, We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss Of an eternal home.

Gathering Rite on the Word of God

- M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- M: In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;
- C: in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.
- M: We do not make requests of you because we are righteous,
- C: but because of your great mercy.
- M: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;
- C: establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.
- M: Let me live that I may praise you,
- C: and may your laws sustain me.

Choir:

Shepherd of My Heart Francis Patrick O'Brien

My shepherd is the Lord, for nothing shall I want; Green are the pastures where I'm led to repose. Near waters still and deep God will refresh my soul. I am led onward in ways true to the Name.

Refrain:

Guide me, O shepherd of my heart; Lead me homeward through the dark, into everlasting day. Show me the way of truth and light; keep me always in your sight. May my life never part from the shepherd of my heart.

Confession of Sin & Absolution

- M: Great Good Shepherd, your greatness is beyond our highest praise!
- C: As we gather as your flock to worship you make us to lie down in green pastures of your promises,
- M: you lead us beside the quiet waters of your comfort,
- C: you restore our souls with the power the Gospel in Word and Sacrament,
- M: you lead us in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.
- 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.

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: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- M: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
- C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Choir:

Shepherd of My Heart

Francis Patrick O'Brien

Please join in singing the refrains with the choir after the verses:

If I should walk one day into the vale of darkness, No evil shall I fear with God at my side. There with your crook and staff you give me strength and comfort, You spread a banquet in the sight of my foes. **Refrain:**



Choir:

You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing; Goodness and kindness crown the days of my life. Within the Lord's own house I dwell in peace forever; Within the house of God my soul is at rest.

Refrain

Sermon / Devotion Psalm 23

WE WALK BY FAITH – LESSONS AND SONGS

Choir:

By Faith

CW21 Blue #868 Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, arr. Richard Nichols

By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design, In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts Of a holy city built by God's own hand, a place where peace and justice reign.

We will stand as children of the promise; we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward. Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost To deliver captives and to preach good news in ev'ry corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise; we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward. Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith this mountain shall be moved, and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail. For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.

We will stand as children of the promise; we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward. Till the race in finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith, not by sight.

A reading - from Hebrews, chapter 11.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

We Walk By Faith: In the God Who Sanctifies and Sustains

A reading - from Ephesians, chapter 2.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Choir:

Write Upon My Heart

Joseph Martin & David Angerman

Write upon my heart, Lord Jesus. Inscribe your Name upon my life. Start in me a sacred work. Make my life an open book. Let others know your truth through me.

Fill my life with praise, Lord Jesus. Let your music echo through my soul. Make in me a living song. Let it sound for you alone. Let others share your love through me.

Renew me, Lord, with your Spirit. Plant in me the word of truth. Let me reflect your love and grace until I see you face to face. Let me share your love in all I do!

Paint upon my life, Lord Jesus. Sculpt me as a potter works the clay. Make in me your work of art, a reflection of your heart. Let others see your love in me.

Let others know your truth, Lord Jesus. Let others hear your voice, Lord Jesus. Let others see your love in me.

Choir:

Before the Throne of God Above

David Angerman

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea, A great High Priest whose name is love, who ever lives and pleads for me. My name is graven on His hands. My name is written on His heart. I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within, Upward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin. Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free; For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness, The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace! One with Himself, I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God.

We Walk By Faith: With the Gift of Salvation

A reading - from 1 Corinthians, chapter 15.

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Choir:

In Christ Alone CW21 Blue #510 Townend/Getty/arr. David Angerman

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe. This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death this is the pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand; 'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

We Walk By Faith: With a Living Hope

A reading - from 1 Peter, chapter 1.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Choir:

And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be? And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race; 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me. And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own. Amazing love, how can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me? Amazing love!

We Walk By Faith: Towards Our Eternal Home

A reading -- from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Please join in singing the hymn "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight."



Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Tune: SHANTI (86 86) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

OUR THANKSGIVING

OUR OFFERING

An opportunity to give online can also be used at Paypal.me/GracePortland or by utilizing this QR code:



Choir:

Draw Near Through Christ James Koerts

In Eden's bliss we walked with God unhindered by the curse. Yet we rebelled and were expelled estrange, alone, perverse. Two mighty cherubs barred the path to Eden's holy place; No more could men, now stained by sin, beyond our Maker's face.

Beneath the Law we sought the Lord through sacrifice and priest. One time each year one man, in fear, sought God with blood of beast. Still mighty cherubs blocked the way so sinners could not pass In curtain sewn, on golden throne, they stopped the rebel fast.

Then Christ appeared to clear the way to God for sinful man; Fulfilled the Law without a flaw our Temple, Priest, and Lamb. Astounded cherubs stepped aside; each hid his flaming sword. With nail and thorn the Veil was torn; draw near through Christ the Lord!

In Jesus' name we boldly come before the throne of grace. With empty hand, in Christ we stand to see Almighty's face. Till saints and cherubs join in awe around the Savior's throne. With one great voice we will rejoice: "All praise to Christ alone!"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

- M: Risen and ascended Lord, in your loving care we can live every day without worrying; no needful thing will you fail to provide:
- C: Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd".
- M: By your holy word you feed our souls and strengthen our faith. In your gracious forgiveness we are refreshed and restored:
- C: The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- M: You turn us away from the paths of sin, and move us to walk in the ways of God:
- C: Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. They listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."
- M: Though we walk in danger all the way, though the shadows of death enfold us at last, we will not fear. Your love goes with us wherever we go; in your comforting word we find courage and strength; your triumphant cross brings life from death:
- C: Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep... whoever enters through me will be saved.
- M: You have called us to sit at your heavenly feast. Our table of blessing overflows, and you will not allow earthly enemies, nor Satan himself, to snatch them away:
- C: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- M: Good Shepherd, your mercies will never end. They will follow us as we follow you. Grant us to walk in your grace and love till we come to dwell in the heavenly home which you have prepared for us above:
- C: Surely, goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

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

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.

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 DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822 "Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy" - Shane & Shane "The Good Shepherd" – Fernando Ortega

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 Choir:

Peace I Leave with You Walter Pelz

CHOIR CLOSING HYMN:

"Praise His Holy Name! Keith Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see. Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Holy Jesus, praise His name, Oh! Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name! Praise His name! Praise His Holy name! Praise Him!

Evergreen Lutheran High School Festival Choir

- Cody Birsching Elsa Brauer Cecilia Brueckner Zoe Campbell Anna Cloyd Nathan Grassell Ryan Henning Kaden Hintz Kaleb Lueken Logan Lyter Celia Michael
- Jack Pittenger Nika Pittenger Sam Plocher Natalie Raymond Hannah Rodmyre Elijah Roth Elizabeth Roth Collins Sugut Grace Sundby Audrey Vukelich Alex Walls

Accompanists – Elsa Brauer, Natalie Raymond

Readers – Cody Birsching, Ryan Henning, Jack Pittenger, Sam Plocher, Elijah Roth Service music – Elsa Brauer, Zoe Campbell, Anna Cloyd, Celia Michael, Nika Pittenger, Natalie Raymond, Hannah Rodmyre, Elizabeth Roth Director – Jodi Wosje

The Evergreen choir members and faculty thank you for welcoming us into your church today. Please continue to keep ELHS in your prayers as we educate, encourage, and equip our students for life and for eternity!



EVERGREEN Lutheran High School 7306 Waller Rd E Tacoma, WA 98443

