

IT IS FINISHED.  
HE IS RISEN!



**EASTER**  
IN LIKE A LAMB... OUT LIKE A LION!



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 MORNING

March 31, 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**

## Bell Peal

M: Why do you look for the living among the dead? CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Rising to say...*

C: HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Opening Hymn CW21 Blue #438

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

*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 has 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!*

M: Dear friends in Christ, for forty days of Lent we have been preparing for this celebration of our Lord's resurrection from the dead. During our solemn celebration of Holy Week, we heard again the events of Christ's passion and death—his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his Last Supper and washing of his disciples' feet, his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest and trial, and his crucifixion, death and burial. Today we come together to mark with joy his resurrection. Christ, our Savior, has completed his work as Messiah: he suffered, he died, he descended to hell and rose again. Christ, our Passover Lamb—once slain for us—now lives and reigns to all eternity. Death and the grave have no more power over him. Let us remember with devotion his empty tomb and follow him through the great fifty days of the Easter season with a lively faith. United with him by baptism, we share in his resurrection and new life.

## EASTER'S LITANY

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

C: **Amen.**

M: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: I know that my Redeemer lives,

C: **and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.**

M: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,

C: **the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

M: When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality,

C: **then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."**

M: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

C: **O Lord, who could stand?**

M: But with you there is forgiveness...

## EASTER'S 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:** “Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Job 19:23-27

**Hymn of Response:** CW21 Blue #599

***"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"***

***Come, Christians, join to sing;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***Loud praise to Christ our King;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***Let all, with heart and voice,***

***before His throne rejoice;***

***Praise is His gracious choice;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***Come, lift your hearts on high;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***Let praises fill the sky;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***He is our Guide and Friend;***

***to us He'll condescend;***

***His love shall never end;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***Praise yet our Christ again;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***Life shall not end the strain;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

***On heaven's blissful shore,***

***His goodness we'll adore,***

***singing forevermore;***

***Alleluia! Amen!***

## THE WORD

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 26:12,19-21

O Lord, you establish peace for us. Everything we have done, you have accomplished for us... But your dead ones will live. Their dead bodies will rise. Wake up and sing for joy, you who dwell in the dust, because your dew will glisten like morning light, and the earth will give up the spirits of the dead. 20 Go, my people, go into your rooms, and shut the doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while, until his wrath has passed over. Look! The Lord is coming out of his place to deal with the guilt of those who live on the earth. Then the earth will reveal the blood shed on it. It will no longer cover those who have died.

### Grace Choir

*“Sing, Joyous Christians”*

### The Second Lesson

Acts 13:26-38

<sup>26</sup> “Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup> The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup> When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. <sup>32</sup> “We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors <sup>33</sup> he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.

As it is written in the second Psalm:

“‘You are my son; today I have become your father.’

<sup>34</sup> God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay.

As God has said, “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’

<sup>35</sup> So it is also stated elsewhere: “‘You will not let your holy one see decay.’

<sup>36</sup> “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. <sup>37</sup> But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. <sup>38</sup> “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Rising to say...

C: HE IS RISEN INDEED! Alleluia!

M: This is the day the Lord has made;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Alleluia!

Hymn of Response: CW21 Blue #471

**“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**

*Now all the vault of heav’n resounds*

*In praise of love that still abounds:*

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

*Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!*

*Repeat their song of glory here:*

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Eternal is the gift he brings,*

*Therefore our heart with rapture sings:*

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

*Now still he comes to give us life*

*And by his presence stills all strife.*

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;*

*Set heart and will on things above*

*That we conquer, through your triumph;*

*Grant grace sufficient for life’s day*

*That by our lives we truly say:*

**“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Adoring praises now we bring*

*And with the heav’nly blessed sing:*

**“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”**

*Be to the Father, and our Lord,*

*To Spirit blest, most holy God,*

*All the glory, never ending!*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## **The Gospel Lesson**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

## **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.**



**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 all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.**

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

**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, 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 Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

<sup>28</sup> Knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit...

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

**Hymn of Response:** CW21 Blue 452 (1)

**“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”**

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***The strife is o’er, the battle done;***

***Now is the victor’s triumph won;***

***Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## THANKSGIVING

### The Offering

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



### Prayer of the Church for Easter Day

- M:** Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.
- C:** **When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.**
- M:** Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.
- C:** **Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.**

M: King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will—false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan’s lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel’s free course.

**C: Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.**

M: Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, “He is risen!” As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

**C: Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.**

M: Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions & temptation, clothe in your righteousness we who struggle with sinful nature each day, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

**C: Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.**

M: O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord. His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father!

**C: Amen.**

### The Lord’s Prayer

**C: 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 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 #466 (1, -2,4)

**“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”**

*Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,  
Even from death, dispelling its gloom.*

### **Refrain**

*Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;  
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!*

*For three long days the grave did its worst  
Until its strength by God was dispersed.  
He who gives life did death undergo.  
And in its conquest his might did show. Refrain*

*“Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won.” Refrain*