

"Put your finger here: see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." John 20:27. NIV

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2025 | 8:00 and 10:30am

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

# VISITORS

We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We're glad you are here.

# **OUR WORSHIP**

Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

# PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

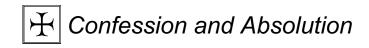
## PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW Setting 2

Watchword: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. – 1 Peter 1:3 RSV

# PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER



## CALL TO WORSHIP

The people please stand.

- P: This is the day the Lord has made!
- C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
- P: Christ is risen.
- C: He is risen indeed.
- P: Christ is risen!
- C: He is risen indeed!
- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

# PRAYER OF PREPARATION

- P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.

# CONFESSION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

# P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to 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 left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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.

# ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

- P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

The people stand.



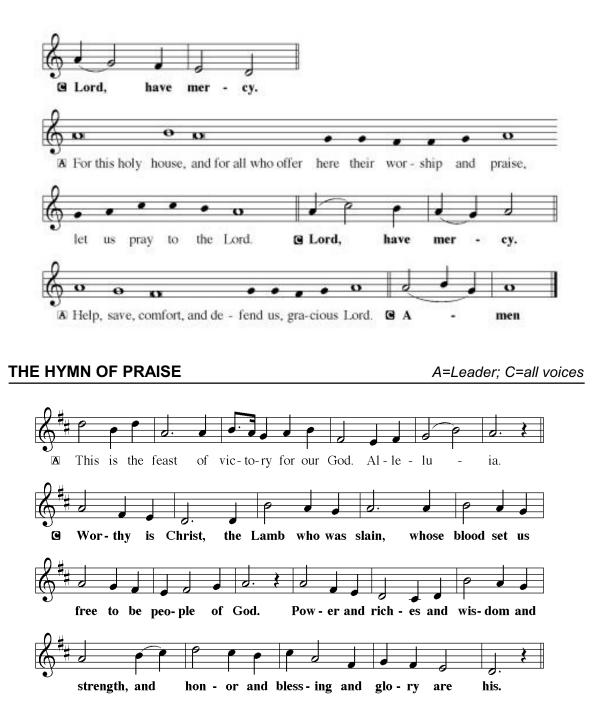
#### **ENTRANCE HYMN** The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done Green Book 135

Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center aisle at this time.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.









- P: Let us pray. Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

The people may be seated.

# The Liturgy of the Word

## THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 5:27-32

# L: A reading from Acts.

After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, his followers continue to preach about Jesus, even when commanded to stop by the high priest. They understood the value of earthly authority, but when commanded to remain silent about their faith, "they must obey God rather than any human authority."

<sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

# PSALMODY

Psalm 150



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise God in his | holy temple;\* praise him in the firmament | of his power.

<sup>2</sup>Praise him for his | mighty acts;\* praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.

<sup>3</sup>Praise him with the blast | of the ram's horn;\* praise him with | lyre and harp. <sup>4</sup>Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;\* praise him with | strings and pipe.

<sup>5</sup>Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;\* praise him with loud- | clanging cymbals. <sup>6</sup>Let everything | that has breath\* praise the Lord. | Hallelujah!

### THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1:4-8

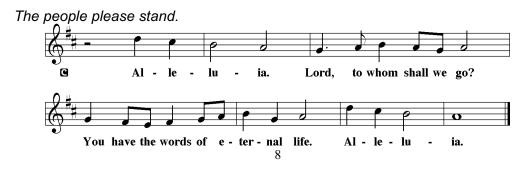
L: A reading from Revelation.

These verses begin the final book of the Bible with a vision of what is to come with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. But in the here and now, we have been freed from our sins by his blood and called to serve him.

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

## THE VERSE



#### THE GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. P: The Gospel of our Lord.



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The people may be seated.

SERMON		Pastor Tom Jacobson
HYMN OF THE DAY	Thine Is the Glory	Green Book 145
The people stand.		

# 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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 PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition: A: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer**.

- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.



# THE PEACE

- P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

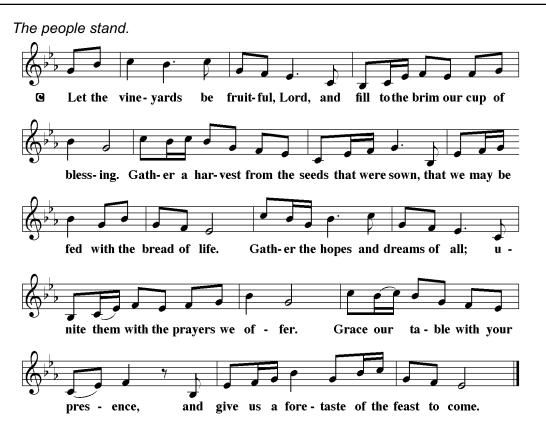
The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

# OFFERING

Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

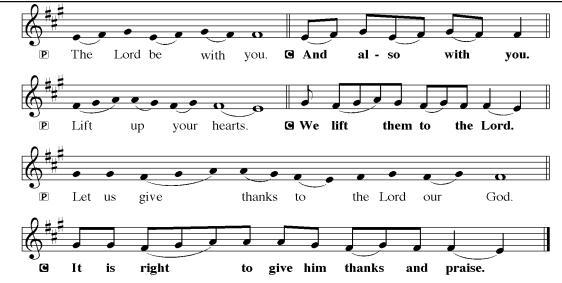
## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**



## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,
- C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

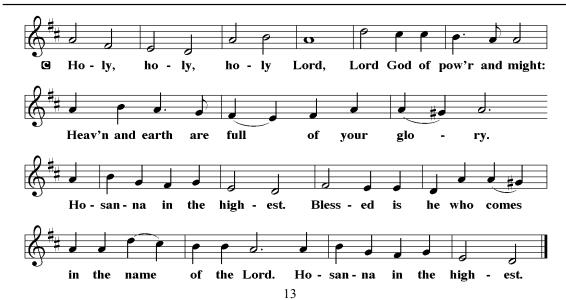
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



# THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# THE SANCTUS



## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.
- C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

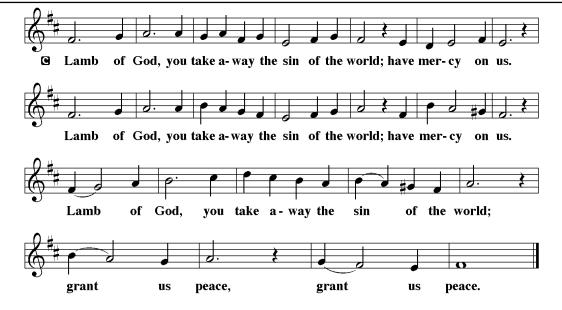
- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## THE FRACTION

- P: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.
- C: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The people may be seated.

#### LAMB OF GOD



# DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

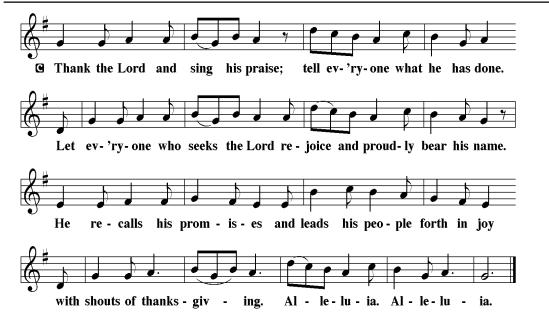
To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. *Hymns during distribution: Green Book 132, 197* 

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The people please stand.

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

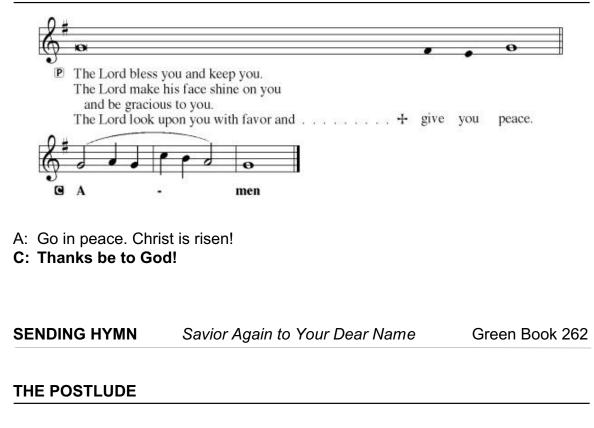


## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

- A: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.



## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL



We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.

#### PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

65 E. Columbus St. Thornville, OH 43076 (740) 246-6576 office@gracethornville.org www.gracethornville.org The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor





As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- April 29 Catherine of Siena, teacher, 1380
- May 1 ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, Apostles
- May 2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373
- May 4 Monica, mother of Augustine, 387

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 3 EASTER (MAY 4)

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19



John 20:29