



Grace Lutheran Church 1883-2023

6th Sunday of Easter ~ 11:00 am ~ May 22, 2022

First Responders Appreciation & Blessing

Grace Lutheran Church

Welcomes You to Worship

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

Web Site: glcwtn.org ~ gracelc@midconetwork.com

Church Office: 605-886-5737

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

Congregation responses in Bold Print

PRELUDE

"Deo Gracias"

Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP (*inspired by John 14: 23-29*)

Those who love Jesus keep his words;

Those who love Christ will make their home with God.

Those who know Jesus will know his peace;

Those who know Jesus will be taught in the ways of peace.

Come, follow and love Jesus our Lord, who has come to be among us.

Come, worship God, who lives among us, loves us, and calls us home. Amen.

OPENING SONG: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

ELW 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared.

Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us

visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Let the light of God's eternal love flood into your hearts this day. Feel the healing presence of God in your lives. Accept God's love and hope for you. This is the gift freely given for you by Jesus Christ, God's risen Son our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

ELW 151

1 Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison. Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

3 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

2 Christe eleison. Christe eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray... **Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

Pew Bible p 900

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Savior’s Song”

Sing to the one who has known us forever.
Dance to the rhythm of freedom and love.

Rest and be sure in the arms of forgiveness. Join in the Savior’s song.
I’m hoping for a brand new day, Where we stop all the fuss and the fighting
Long enough to look in each other’s eyes,
And see the precious gift of ev’ry life.

There’s nothing that can take away All the love of the one who has saved us.
We may walk, we may run or fall,
But God is right here with us through it all.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5 Pew Bible p 1008

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life. ^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS TIME

GOSPEL LEADIN:

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

ELW p. 172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: John 14: 23-29

Pew Bible p 877

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

SERMON SONG:

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW 631

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

BLESSING OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

We read in 1 Timothy 2:1–4: “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Let us pray: Lord, every day first responders must make difficult and complicated decisions. Help them to choose wisely and well in every situation. Give them clarity and the ability to stand strong, to stay calm, even in the most tense moments, and fill them with courage in the face of danger.

May they have compassion for those whose lives are broken and demonstrate kindness to those who live in fear. Help them to be aware of Your presence, find their security in You, and when they are without answers, help them call out to You to be

their strength and wisdom. We ask this and Your peace to be upon them.
May the blessing of God fall on you as you are the First to Respond.
May safety go with you, and you be filled with understanding and wisdom.
May you discover gratefulness and a sense of support in your actions.
And may you discover the love of God, the peace of Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as you go. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE:

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY of Grace Lutheran Church
DEDICATION OF OFFERING:**

Let us pray... Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG of OFFERING:

“Aria”

Bell Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

PRAYER PETITIONS:

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work.

Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Inspire us to keep the word and surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Grant to them favorable weather and join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. Grant to members of the Armed Forces a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace especially for Rhys, Roy, Esther, Jim, Rose, Shannon, Darrell, Joyce, Dennis, Kendal, Judy, Carla, Kaye, Mary, Jennifer, Sharlee, Doug, Sylvia, Don, Judy, Theresa, Rick, Carolyn, Roger, Larry, Daryl, Caden, Robert, those in Care Center, Assisted Living or are homebound. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold the work of ministries, organizations, and volunteers in our communities who assist people experiencing the trauma following the May 12th storms. Let your light shine over all First Responders, guide their steps and protect them as they answer the call to help for those in emergency situations.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You promise to be with us always, calling us from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life through baptism. Bless Jax, his parents and sponsors through the waters of life and keep them close together in your Spirit, renewing in them your words of grace and promise. Be with Laura as she returns to her home, make her way safe, and bless her as she has been a blessing to us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our own baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew Grace Lutheran by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Oh Lord, we do not come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your abundant mercy as we hear the words of forgiveness and promise spoken on that ancient night... and trust in His grace...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ dwells with us here. Come to the table for all is ready.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

"Lamb of God II"

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us your peace, Grant us your peace,

“The Peace of the Lord”

ELW 646

1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is for you and for me, and also for all of God's children.

The peace of the Lord is for you and for me, and also for all of God's children.

2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is among us right now, so open yourselves to receive it.

The peace of the Lord is among us right now, so open yourselves to receive it.

3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord kept within cannot live, so open yourselves now to share it.

The peace of the Lord kept within cannot live, so open yourselves now to share it.

SENDING COMMISSION AND BLESSING *(based on John 14)*

Listen to the promise Jesus makes: I will never abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Even though the world will not be able to see me, I will never vanish from your sight. And since I live, you will also live.

Go knowing the power and presence of God goes with you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

“My Life Flows on the Endless Song”

ELW 763

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and
earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul.

How can I keep from singing?

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather
round?

Songs in the night he giveth.

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my
heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Confident the Lord is with you. **Thanks be to God. We Will!**

Announcements for May 22nd

Keep in your prayers - Those dealing with Health Issues:

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Esther Bakeberg, Jim Bakeberg, Rose Beck, Shannon Beck, Darrell Brekke, Joyce Brever, Dennis Carlson, Kendal Ceroll, Judy Eide, Carla Frost, Kaye Harriott, Jennifer Kiddleson, Sharlee Kjellsen, Doug Koutz, Sylvia Larson, Don Learned, Judy Lien, Theresa Pekelder, Rick Raml, Carolyn Ronke, Roger Rust, Daryl Stowell, Caden Thompson, Robert Wittrock, and Families of Mary Hawkins & Larry Schmeling, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are Homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, our Law Enforcement personal, Fire Fighters, EMT and all First Responders.

On the CALENDAR - For the week of May 22nd to 29th

Today	<i>First Responders Appreciation & Blessing (11 am service)</i> 8:30 am Worship service w/ Holy Communion 10 am Adult Confirmation in Library 11 am Worship service w/Holy Communion & First Responders Appreciation and Blessing
Monday	<i>Pastor Cheryl on vacation thru Thursday</i> 1-4 pm Dorcus Quilters 6 pm Choir Practice 7 pm Bell Choir Practice
Tuesday	5 to 7 pm – Preschool Graduation 6 pm – Education Committee meets
Wednesday	6 pm – Family Worship Service NO Youth Group
Thursday	6 pm – Grief Support meeting
Sunday	(SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS) 8:30 am Worship service

Upcoming Events:

- June 3 & 4 – SD Synod Assembly & VBS Day Camp
- June 5 – 10:30 am Brunch with Noon - Bike Blessing
- June 21–Mother-daughter “*Let’s Fla’mingle*”

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM TODAY:

Jax Lee Mattson, son of Austin and Elizabeth Mattson, was baptized into Christ today at the 8:30 am service. His sponsors are Lindsey and Travis Barthel. God’s blessing upon Jax, his parents, and sponsors.

RECEIVING A BLESSING AND GODSPEED: Laura Moeller, daughter of Steen and Vivi Moeller, will be returning to her home in Videbæk, Denmark. While here as an exchange student, her host family was Guy and Marian Gibson of Watertown. She attended Watertown High School as a straight “A” junior and will return to Denmark as a Sophomore where she enjoyed being a member of the Watertown Dance Team. After three more years of High school, Laura wished to attend Medical School for eight years and then Specialty for three more years, hoping to become an Obstetrician or Mid-Wife. When asked what her favorite memory of Grace Lutheran is she responded, “She has enjoyed the fellowship, the friendly people, helping with numerous activities, learning new hymns and worshipping.”

THANK YOU: A huge thank you to all who helped with the Mollie B show to set up and help during the evening. A special thank you to the sponsors for their support to bring the show to Watertown. It was a huge success and great entertainment. We’ve now reached out *Raise the Roof* goal because of all your hard work and efforts.

A RADIO BROADCAST of the Sunday morning worship service can be heard at 10:05 a.m. each Sunday on KWAT (95 AM). **The RADIO BROADCAST** today is given by Jeff and Becky Barthel. In honor of Jax Baptism. **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given by Sharon Goble, in honor of James 80th Birthday, and our 48th Anniversary. Your gifts are greatly appreciated for the Mission and Ministry of Grace Lutheran. If you would like to help with these special weekly needs, please call the office or send your donation to **Grace Lutheran, 202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota 57201**

VBS is coming up... in June on Friday and Saturday... June 3 & 4th... .. entitled Zoomerang: Returning to the Value of Life. VBS is open for 3-year-old to 6th graders. Time runs from 1 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday. Meals and snacks will be provided. There is also an option for 5th and 6th graders for an overnight camp-out here at Grace – just mark the box on the registration form. And parents are asked to come and help. We are planning lots of fun activities so make sure your moms and dads know you want to come to VBS... to get signed up... to join the fun at this year's VBS.

LWR Monthly Mission Kit Request for May is Soap: For baby care kits: TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars. For personal care kits: TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping. Please bring Soap in May for an offering for the LWR kits.

USHER & WELCOME TRAINING: On June 2nd at 6 pm, there will be training for people to be ushers and greeters for church. We are in need of ushers to be in attendance each week and help prepare and oversee the service, so it runs smoothly. Greeters are there to make people feel welcome as they come to worship, assist newcomer in finding their way, and be the friendly face that invites people into Grace. This is important work of the church family. Please attend the training and take your turn helping in these crucial areas of service.

Grace Grief Support meets in Library on Thursday, May 26

This group (open to members within or outside of the Grace community) continues on Thursday, May 26 at 6 pm in the Library at Grace. Any person who is experiencing the loss of a person, friend or family member or is finding themselves coping with grief overload is welcome to join this discussion and support group. Walking together is a way that we support each other and share each other's sorrows and joys. Questions? See Intern Brenda or Pastor Cheryl.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:

PASTOR: Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

READER: JoAnn Spartz

MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR: Brenda Handel-Johnson

KEYBOARD: Isaak Montemayor

PRIASE TEAM: Becky Sprouse, Riley Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Krisma DeWitt, Kayla Mohling

BELL CHOIR: Becky Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Liz Dunn, Riley Sprouse, Jackie Abel, Marian Raml, Isaak Montemayor

CHOIR MEMBERS: Becky Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Kayla Mohling, Riley Sprouse, Marian Raml, Krisma DeWitt, Karen Kasperson

USHERS: Doug & Ann Murfield

COMMUNION SERVERS: Scott & Cindy VanderLeest

SOUND/VIDEO TECH TEAM: Paul Henrichs, Wyatt Sprouse, Larry Picht, Gary Rukstad, Jason Mohr, Anthony DeHaan, & Dylan Jordan

Pastoral Calls: You can reach Pastor Cheryl at 605-237-1501(cell or text) or by E-mail: cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com

**To keep informed and events – check out our webpage at glcwn.org
or find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheran8865737>**

LAST WEEK ATTENDANCE

5/11/22 & 5/15/22

Worshippers: 175

LAST WEEK DEPOSIT

Deposits: \$5,301

Weekly Budget: \$6,256