



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church

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### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### WELCOME PRAYER

Dear God, as we gather on this fourth Sunday of Easter, we come before you grateful for your presence and love. We thank you for the gift of this day and for the opportunity to worship together as a community. In this time of worship, may our hearts be open to your love and our minds be filled with your wisdom and everlasting comfort. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (ELW P. 94)

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:**

**Christ The Lord Is Risen Today - Alleluia**

**ELW 369**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW P. 215)**

Let us pray.

**O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING**

**ACTS 4:5-12**

**P. 887**

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE READING:**

**PSALM 23**

**P. 425**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**2 The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**SECOND READING**

**1 JOHN 3:16-24**

**P. 990**

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW P. 151**

**GOSPEL**

**JOHN 10:11-18**

**P. 872**

The Holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**BY: PASTOR CARLENE RHODY**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS**

**ELW 502**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**ELW P. 152**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain especially, Rhys, Roy, Rose, Shannon, Allen, Denise, Danny, Dennis, Dick, Harper, Ted, James, Greg, Kristi, Chad, Jan, Sylvia, LaVerne, Elvira, Rick, Roger, Lynn, Tracy, Kaisley, Tori, Robert, Raef, Ron, Ashlea, Robert, Sandra, Harley & Marilyn, Angela, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, transportation personnel, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, EMTs, and all First Responders. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### THE OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFERING SONG:

**WE ARE AN OFFERING**

ELW 692

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



**SCAN WITH A SMART  
PHONE TO GIVE  
ELECTRONICALLY**

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW P. 221

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG:

**PRAISE THE LORD, RISE UP REJOICING**

ELW 544

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**