



Grace Lutheran Church 1883-2023

5th Sunday of Easter ~ 11:00 am ~ May 15, 2022

Congratulations Seniors

Grace Lutheran Church

Welcomes You to Worship

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

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

Church Office: 605-886-5737

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

Congregation responses in Bold Print

Jason Mohr

PIANO PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

The living Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

OPENING SONG: "Praise, Praise the Lord"

ELW 875

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Inspired by Revelations 21: 5)

O God, you who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts.

Open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Inspired by Revelations 21: 1-6)

Behold: there is a new heaven, a new earth and a new city, where the river of life flows, where the tree of life bears fruit in every season. This heaven, this city, this river, this tree are a vision of your life reborn, restored, and renewed. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Shout to the Lord"

ELW 821

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray... **O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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 11:1-18

Pew Bible p 895

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

Pew Bible p 1007

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

CHILDRENS TIME

GOSPEL LEAD-IN:

"A New Commandment"

WOV 664

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall people know you are my disciples, if you have love one for another;
by this shall people know you are my disciples: if you have love one for another.

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

Pew Bible p 877

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

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

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

MESSAGE

SERMON SONG:

"Great is the Lord"

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just,
By His power we trust in His love.

Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true, By His mercy He proves He is love.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory, Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise,
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, Now lift up your voice:

Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory,
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise,

Great are you, Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:

Great are you Lord! Great are you Lord!

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Dear friends: Life presents us with various significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduation from high school is one of these milestones. Today we wish to honor those who are moving through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change, and to show them that we, their community of faith, stand with them and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

Graduates, we are proud of you! It is our privilege to affirm you as members of this congregation and bless your journey as to go out into the world. You have completed an important phase of your lives and you are entering another.

At this time of celebration and transition, hear Gods words from holy scripture.

Dear graduates: At this special time in your life, we are eager to show you how delighted we are that you have reached this milestone in your life. As fellow members of this community of faith we rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement as you move from this accomplishment into the next phase of your life.

We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection, and strength.

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, when you welcomed the children your invitation included each one of us. Your guiding hand has continually been upon these young men and women. You have sustained them. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion you have offered direction. In times of

sorrow you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. Grant, O Savior, to each of these graduates the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Bless them and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Bless them and keep them now and forever. **Amen.**

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare for your new endeavors, do you give thanks to God for the many ways your faith has been your strength and guide during this time of growth and development?

Response: I do with the help of God.

As you consider the next steps of your journey of life, do you acknowledge God going with you, before you, behind you, below you, above you, and within you?

Response: I do with the help of God.

As you make choices about your new vocation, will you offer your gifts to the world as part of the body of Christ and welcome the support of a family of faith?

Response: I do with the help of God.

Members and friends of Grace Lutheran, will you promise to keep these graduates and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they transition into all that the future holds? **We will.**

Will you, as fellow believers in Jesus Christ, promise to prayer for and help these young men and women as need and opportunity arise? **We will.**

Graduates... remember that we your family of faith here at Grace Lutheran, will continue to be here to support you in all that you do... so come back often.

Now - Receive this blessing:

O God, Giver and Sustainer of all life, we ask your blessing upon these graduates as they stand at the threshold of a new adventure. In their living and loving may they always remember that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Give them the wisdom to seek your way and to proclaim your peace and justice, that you may be praised and that throughout their life our world may become closer to the designs of your bountiful and loving plans. Graduates, may God bless you and keep you safe through the journey of this life until you see the smile of God's love welcoming you to your eternal home.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord watch over you and keep you safe.

May the Lord guide your every step.

And may you always know of our unending love for you. **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: our selves, 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:

“Make a Difference” by Rachel Kurtz
Solo by Isaak Montemayor

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:

Holy One of new beginnings, fill us with new life and cause a revival across our country through your Holy Spirit. Send us into the world as you sent your apostles Philip and James, to invite people to come and see your wondrous acts in Christ.

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

Revive ecosystems that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Reestablish plant and animal life that purifies air and water. Grant favorable weather to farmers and ranchers as they toil during the spring work and bring forth a bountiful harvest to feed a hungry world and all living creatures. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide leaders of this world, state, and nation to hear your command to love all people, to serve with compassion, and to create an environment of fair treatment and justice for all they serve. Grant to our military men and women trust in your promises and courage to fulfill their duties.

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

Restore all people who cry to you for help especially those with medical issues we pray 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. Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present to faithful ones who are persecuted for following you *and* especially our Grace Lutheran graduates who will face many challenges to their faith. Sustain them by your faithfulness and give them strength in faith in the name of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Join our voices with angels, creatures, and all the saints who have gone before us in praising Christ and bestowing upon him all blessing and honor and glory. Reveal Christ's glory to us and through us in our worship. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us 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, all who are hungry and thirst.

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,

Special Music:

“Will the Circle be Unbroken”

Choir

SENDING COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Christ has given you a new commandment: that you love one another, as Christ has loved you. By this, everyone will know that you are Christ's disciples, if you share that love with the world. And through this love, all things will be made new. Go now, and do as Christ commands. May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † grant you His peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

“We are Marching in the Light of God”

ELW 866

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
We are dancing . . . We are praying . . . We are singing . . .

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, love one another as Christ has loved you! **Thanks be to God. We Will!**

Announcements for May 15th

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 15th thru 22nd

Today	<i>Senior Recognition Sunday (11 am service)</i> 8:30 am Worship service 9:30 am Coffee Welcoming in Narthex 10 am - Adult Confirmation Class 11 am Worship service w/ Senior Recognition & Holy Communion w/ Seniors and families
Monday	1-4 pm Dorcus Quilters 6 pm Choir Practice 7 pm Bell Choir Practice
Tuesday	9:30 to noon Prairie Coteau Conference pastors meet @ Rosholt
Wednesday	10:00 am – Service at Townview 10:30 am – Service at Jenkins 6 pm – Family Worship Service NO Youth Group
Friday	Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday	8:30 am Worship service w Holy Communion Baptism of Jax Lee Mattson 9:30 am Coffee 10 am - Adult Confirmation Class 11 am Worship service w/Holy Communion Blessing over Law Enforcement & EMT's

Upcoming Events:

May 29th – Summer worship schedule begins – One Service at 8:30 am.

June 3 & 4 – SD Synod Assembly & VBS Day Camp

June 5 – 10:30 am Brunch

Noon - Bike Blessing

June??? TBD – Exciting news – Get Ready for the June mother-daughter evening “*Let’s Fla’mingle*” Watch for more information coming out SOON!

Today is Senior Recognition Sunday at the 11 am Service. The 2022 graduating seniors are: Dawson Lynn Briggs, daughter of Stacey and Ryan Briggs; Chelsea Mayshawn Finckm daughter of Chad and Lacie Finck; Mickel Johnson Brownell, son of Colby and Jessica Brownell; Wade Andrew Jordan, son of Joe Jordan & Leslie Jordan; Hannah Michelle Kennedy, daughter of Sommer Kennedy & Darrell Bruce; Triton Jon May, son of Jonathan and Stacy May; Jason Godfrey Mohr, son of Leah and Scott Mohr; Madison Leigh Park, daughter of Chester and Nikole Park; MeiLi Elizabeth Planteen, daughter of Jeff and Christina Planteen; Abby Marie Reid, daughter of Sandra Wittrock & Roger Wittrock and Clinton Reid & Sarah Reid; Cooper John Schmit, son of Bill Schmit and Randy Schmeichel & Michelle Schmeichel; Aysia Leighanne Rose Stefanich, daughter of Jeannie Helm and Allen Brudwick; Spencer Stock, don of Julie and Kevin Stock; and Jesse John Urevig, son of Paul and Gena Urevig.

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 Richard & JoAnn Deberg, in honor of their 58th wedding anniversary – May 16th. **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given by Sherry & Gary Jongeling, our 45th Anniversary – 5/21/1977. 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 Registration Open... June on Friday and Saturday, June 3 & 4th VBS will be held. “Zoomerang: Returning to the Value of Life” is the theme for this year. 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 –mark the box on the registration form. 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 years VBS

Grace Music groups celebrate the year of music making on May 23.

The Grace Choir and Handbell members will finish out the year of music-making on Monday, May 23. Any and all musicians who have assisted with music throughout the year (including singers, pianists, ringers, accompanists) and their family members are invited to a Barbecue/Potluck on **Monday, May 23 at 6 pm**. Bring a dish to share and your family. The location will be announced. Questions? See Brenda or call or text 605/929-1698 or call the church office for specifics.

Grace Grief Support will meet in Library on Thursday, May 26th. This group is open everyone within or outside of the Grace community. Anyone 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.

SUMMER CONFIRMATION CLASS

Summer classes are available to assist you in achieving the important baptismal responsibility of educating young people the catechism. Summer confirmation class is available for any young people 7th thru 12th grade who have not completed this training. If you have questions, would like to sign your child up for a class contact Pastor Cheryl. Cell: 605-237-1501 or email: cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com.

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

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

USHERS: Doug & Ann Murfield

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

Push Mower Wanted: Does anyone have a push lawn mower they no longer use and would like to donate to Grace Lutheran? We are in need of one. Please contact Rich or the office if you do and Thank you ahead of time.

Address for Sharlee Kjellen. Sharlee suffered a stroke while visiting her son in Wyoming. If anyone would like to send a card her address is: Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, 3100 Channing Way, ICU Room #226, Idaho Falls, ID 83404.

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 during the month of May for an offering for the LWR kits.

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

5/4/22 & 5/8/22
Worshippers: 162

LAST WEEK DEPOSIT

Deposits: \$2,706
Weekly Budget: \$6,256