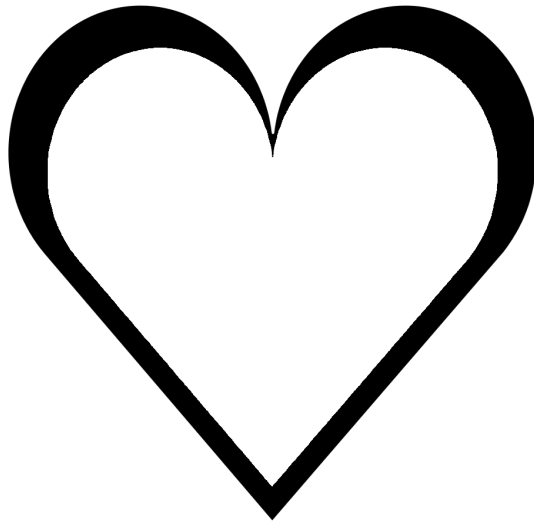


6th Sunday of Easter

New Member Welcome



May 5, 2024

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to worship with us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and pray that you will receive God's awesome GRACE, mercy and love as we receive Word and Sacrament, the means of grace!

We invite our guests and visitors to worship with us often! If you will, please complete a visitor information sheet and/or record your visit in the red attendance book found in each aisle. Visitor/Member Information sheets may be returned to the pastor or an usher.

The complete worship service is contained in this worship folder. Large print worship folders and Quiet Books for our very young worshipers are available from the ushers! We love having children in worship! Should parents have need of nursery during worship, our professionally staffed nursery for childcare is available. Please see an usher for directions.

Our worship space is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate those with hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician (at the rear left of the worship space) for a receiver, if desired. Printed copies of the sermon are available in the info kiosk, if desired.

Please remember to turn off or silence personal communication devices. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the worship space.

In accordance with the Biblical mandate and our Lutheran tradition, we seek to worship God "in Spirit and in truth...for these the Father seeks to worship him!" (John 4:23-24). If you are not familiar with liturgical worship, it is "the work of the people," as God speaks, the ministers speak and the congregation responds in a spoken, chanted and sung dialogue! Everything in our worship is focused on God and His incarnate, embodied presence in our midst! We pray that you will experience the Word made flesh as we worship today!

To establish and maintain a spirit of reverence, we remind worshipers to please greet one another and fellowship in the gathering space before entering the sanctuary, where others will be preparing their hearts and minds for worship. We appreciate your understanding!

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC embraces four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.

We invite you to learn more about our congregation at www.grace43081.org and the NALC at www.thenalc.org!

PRELUDE

Linda Hoch

"Rock of Ages, Cleft of Me" - arr. Peter Pindar Stearns

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" - arr. Janet Linker

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C **Amen.**

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.**

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful Father,

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.**

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.**

Please turn toward the Processional Cross for the Entrance Hymn.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
 here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
 He rules the world his Father made,
 Till, in the end, his love adored
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.

The Liturgy of The Word

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING


P Christ is risen!

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

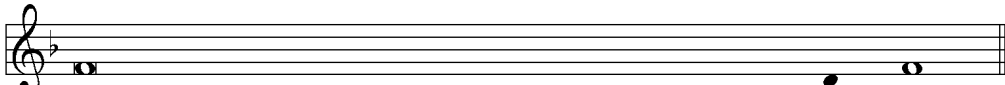
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

C **And also with you.**


KYRIE (*Mark 10: 47, Luke 17:13*)



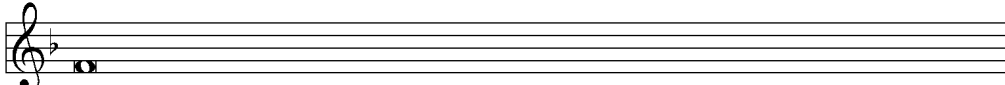
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



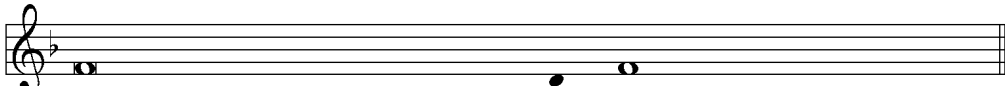
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



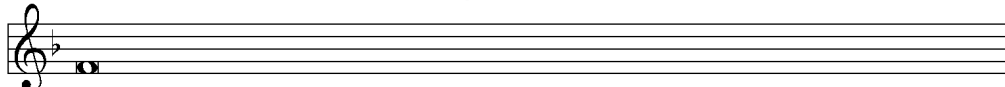
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



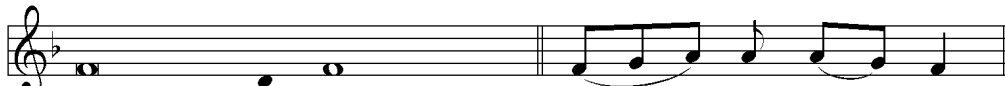
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. Ⓒ A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE

Worthy is Christ” (*Revelation 5:9-12*)
Men sing part I, Women sing part II, and All sing “C”



Ⓒ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Ⓘ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Ⓒ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Ⓚ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☑ A - men

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-48

Peter spoke to Cornelius of the good news, telling him the story of Jesus beginning with John the Baptist and then all that the apostles had seen and witnessed while following Jesus. Peter then announced that God's invitation to believe and follow was meant for all people. His impassioned preaching led many to faith.

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),
³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:
³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,
⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,
⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.
⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.
⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

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

Psalm 98

Refrain



Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands.

Psalm Tone



- L ¹Sing to the LORD | a new song,
 for he has done | marvelous things.
- C ²**With his right hand and his | holy arm
 has he won for him- | self the victory.**
- L ³The LORD has made | known his victory;
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
- C ⁴**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God. Refrain**
- L ⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
 lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- C ⁶**Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
 with the harp and the | voice of song.**
- L ⁷With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
 shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- C ⁸**Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,
 the lands and those who | dwell therein. Refrain**
- L ⁹Let the rivers | clap their hands,
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to | judge the
 earth.
- C ¹⁰**In righteousness shall he | judge the world
 and the peo- | ples with equity. Refrain**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-8

John brings the message of love back to the commandments. The way by which we will love our neighbors, the children of God, is by keeping the commandments that God has given us. Yet again, John portrays love as a concrete way of life rather than empty words. For those who are in Christ, keeping God's commandments is not burdensome, but rather a joyous response to God's gift of eternal life.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is he who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

L The word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

ALLELUIA VERSE (*John 6:68*)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

Jesus called his followers to live a life grounded in love by abiding in his love. He declared that one would remain in his love by keeping his commandment. The commandment was both simple and complex: Love one another as Christ has loved us. Calling his followers “friends” now that they know his mission, Jesus repeated his command succinctly. Love one another.

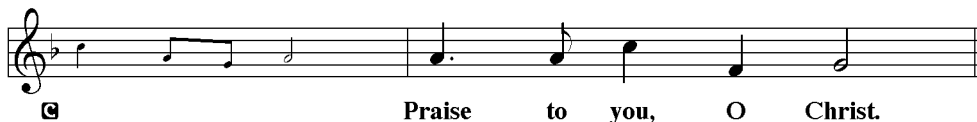
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁹{Jesus said,} “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No

longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

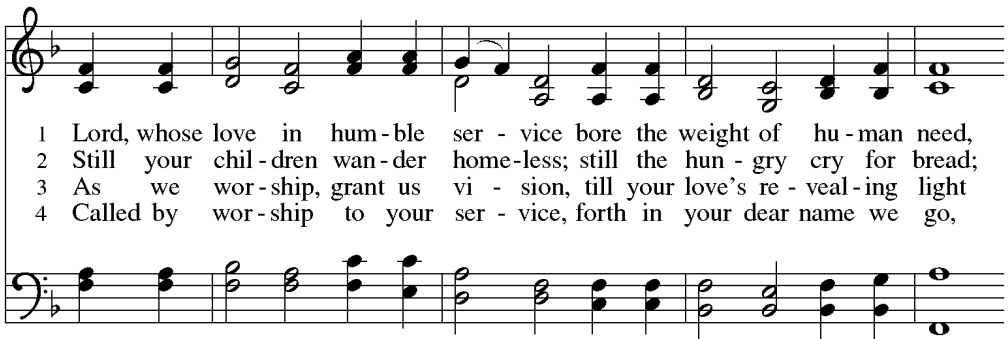
SERMON

The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel

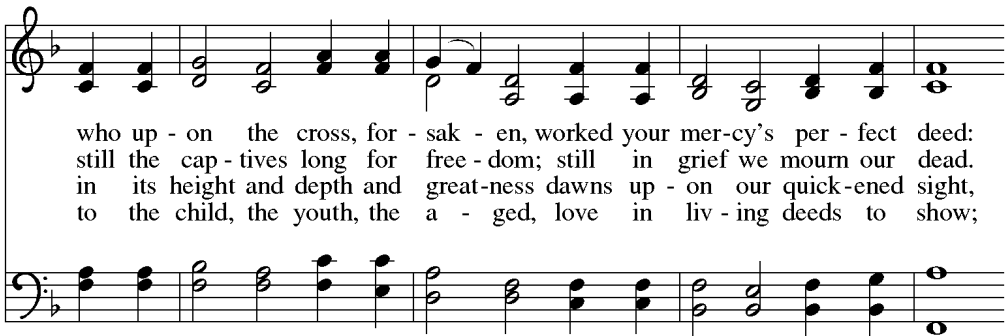
After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

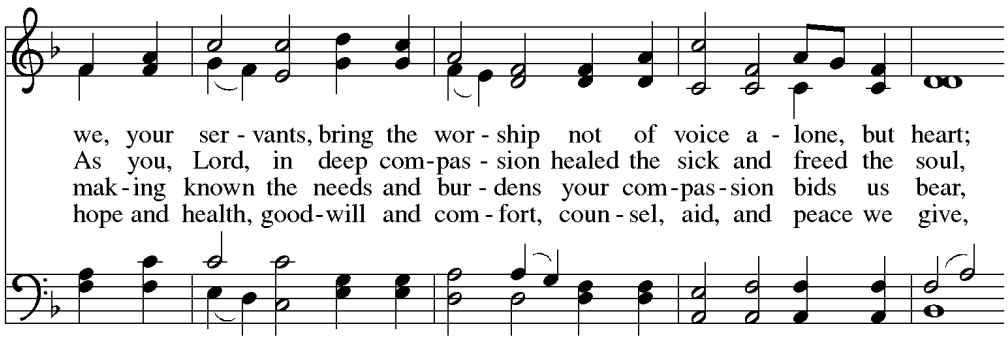
HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



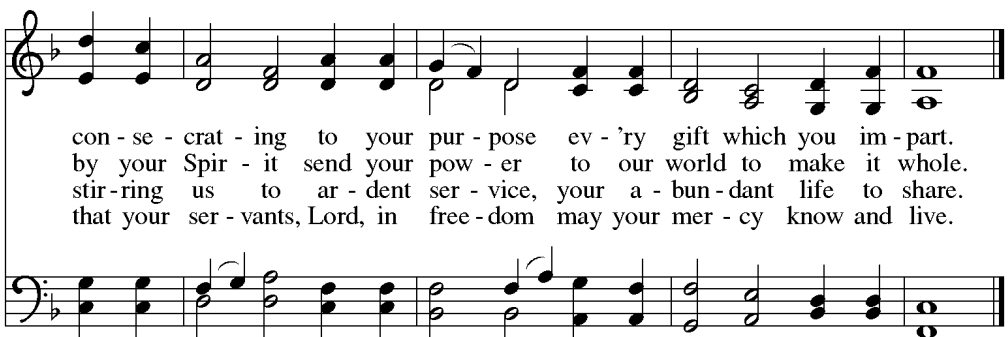
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Reception into Membership

PRESENTATION

A These persons have come to us from other churches, and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism, to be received as members of this church:

Lon Landis

Jackie Nussbaum

Jonathan and Rachel Walton

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you, together with this congregation, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear his Word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these persons. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord.

C Amen.

C We welcome you as members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to join with us in worshiping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, loving and serving our neighbors in need.

P Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

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.

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C And also with you.

You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING:

8:15 "Oriental" - Enrique Granados

Robin Buser - Piano

11:00 "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" - arr. Victor C. Johnson

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

Please stand as the offering and First Fruits are brought forward.

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL, LORD (*Psalm 104:14-15; Isaiah 25:6; 1 Corinthians 5:7*)



♩ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our

cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** 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 gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(2 Timothy 4: 22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.
 Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS (Isaiah 6: 3; Matthew 21: 9)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE FRACTION *(Luke 24:30-31, 35; Acts 2:42)*

A time of silence...

P Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. *(1 Corinthians 5:6-8)*

C Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Please be seated.



All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper, and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are welcome to commune this morning.

Children who do not commune are invited forward to receive a blessing.

You may receive the Communion Wine by taking a communion glass from the tray as it is offered to you.

As always, the common cup is offered for those who desire to use it. If you desire the common cup, please point to it as the individual cups pass by you.

Grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray.

After you have received, please place the empty communion glass in the basket provided

(Gluten-free hosts are available by telling the person giving the host.)

Private prayer before receiving Holy Communion: *O merciful Lord, I do not presume to come to your Table, trusting in my own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. I am not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose will it is always to have mercy. Make me, I pray you, worthy now to receive this Holy Communion. Grant me, gracious Lord, so to consume the very Body and Blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ in this Holy Sacrament, that He may evermore dwell in me, and I in Him, that my sinful body may be made clean by His Body, and my soul washed through His most precious Blood. Amen.*

Private prayer after receiving Holy Communion: *Almighty God, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that as I have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, He may abide in me, and I in Him, and that all who have received may be filled with the power of His endless life. By your grace, help me to walk worthy of my calling, and to learn to bring glory to your name in all things. Amen.*

LAMB OF GOD (John 1: 29)

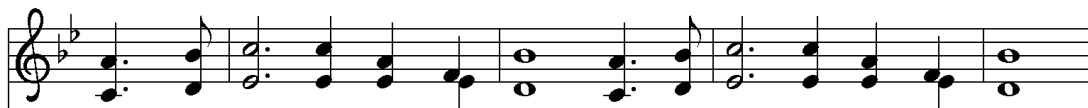
☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

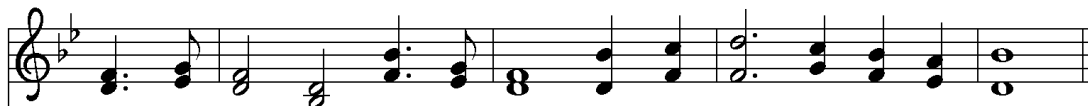
Robin Buser - Piano

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - arr. John Purifoy***COMMUNION HYMN****"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"**

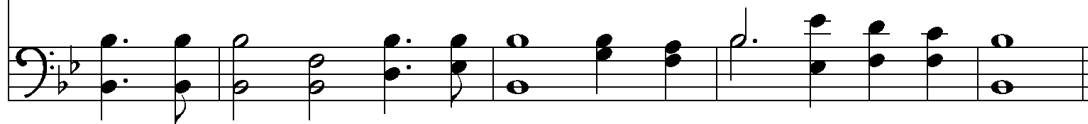
1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

Robin Buser - Piano

*"Abide with Me" - arr. John Purifoy**After all have communed, please stand.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Almighty God, who gives the true Bread which comes down from heaven, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood may abide in Him and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

SENDING OF OUR CARE TEAM

P Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your Word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A musical score for the benediction. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "A - men, A - men, A - - - men." The word "Amen" is repeated three times, with the final "Amen" being elongated with four dashes. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the word "Amen".

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - jice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!



THE RITE OF SENDING

A Christ is risen!
C **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Children Go in peace, serve the Lord!
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on *TRURO*" - arr. Michael Bedford

Linda Hoch

Offering: An offering plate will be placed by the baptismal font for offerings to be presented during the offering procession. Offerings may be placed in the plate before or after the service.

Flowers are given by...

*Steve and Sue Mahrt in honor of Betty and Hugo Wenzel.
Phyllis and Joe Drakulich in celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary.
David and Sarah Odum in celebration of Kenny and Cindy Odum's wedding anniversary and Emily's baptism anniversary.*

Remember in our prayers... Joe Moleno, Harper Jean Tucker, Chuck Dettmann, Mary Ross, John Hicks, Evelyn Boughton, Betty Lou Miliner, Grace Sima, Jan Perry, Bob Bower, Janice Hardick, the family of Ron Kerlee

Notes & News

WELCOME, GUESTS! We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the **WELCOME** Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and sign the Pew Pad to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

Service Recording: The recorded 8:15am service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.

Intercessory Prayer Team: How can we pray for you?



- * ... the funeral, when everyone has left and your emotions held at bay come crashing in.
- * ... the email announcing a new round of layoffs appears in your inbox.
- * ... the Doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing else we can do."
- * ... after the baby comes home, demanding more than was ever imagined possible.

The Grace Church IPT is here to pray for any need you have.

Confidentiality of your prayer request is very important to the intercessors.

Each prayer request is prayed every day for 2 weeks by the IPT. If you would like more prayer time just fill out another request form.

Ways to ask for prayer. Your name is optional.

- Prayer Chest - pens and request forms are at the back of the church.

- Use the Grace website: grace43081.org – the link is found on the first page, top right side, “Prayer Request”.

Let the IPT join you in asking God for your need.

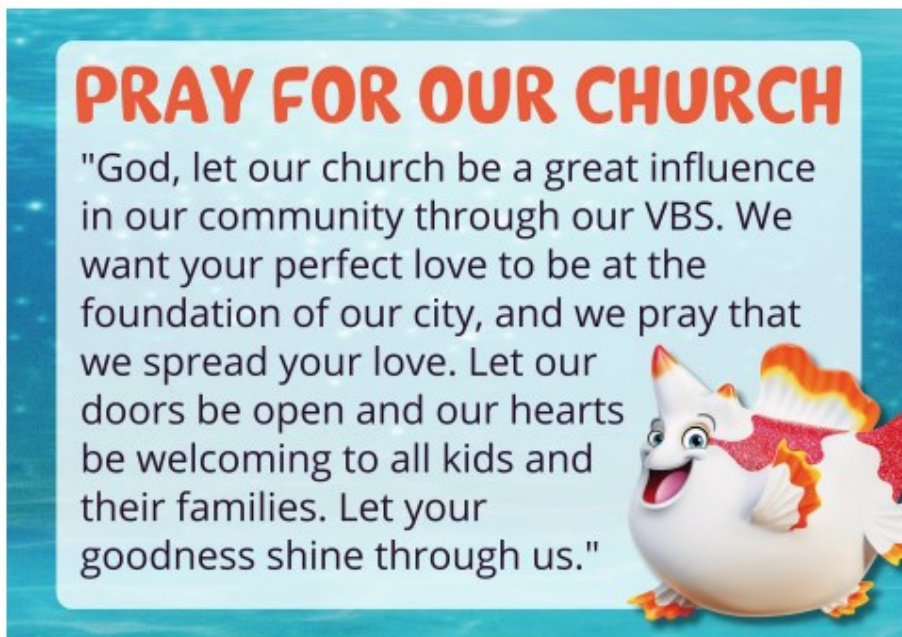
Upcoming Events

May 5	New Member Welcome (both services)
May 9	6:30pm: Band of Brothers @ Old Bag of Nails
May 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother’s Day Blessing (both services) • Red Geranium Orders due for Day of Pentecost • Deadline for Graduate information for May 19 bulletin and June VOICE
May 14	12-6pm: Blood Drive
May 16	6:15pm Supper Club @ Hofb
May 17	7:05pm: Y&F Event: Columbus Clippers Baseball game
May 19	Confirmation Sunday, cake reception following the 11am service Music Sunday Graduation Sunday
May 24	4pm: OASIS Guest Speaker: Senior Living Information
May 26	9:45am Dedication of the new columbaria at the columbarium
May 30	6:30pm: VBS Training
May 31 & June 1	“Weaving a Threefold Cord” @Westerville North High School
June 9	12:30pm: VBS Set-up
June 10-13	Y&F Event: Scuba VBS, 5:30-8:30pm
June 14	10am VBS Take-down
July 20	Y&F Event: Family Hike and Picnic

Congregational Visitation by Pastor Wendel: Upon the beginning of his ministry at Grace in early December, Pastor Wendel has been focused on visiting every home to become better acquainted with all who are involved at Grace Lutheran Church. Council member, Becky Seifert, is scheduling and coordinating these visits. You may contact Becky at seifertbecky@yahoo.com or 614-378-6023. Should you need to contact Pastor Wendel for a last minute change, feel free to call or text him at 719-650-8171. For anyone who may prefer to meet in pastor’s office, please let Becky know when scheduling!

Flowers for 2024: Flowers have been a tradition in worship spaces for generations. They bring beauty and nature into our service and remind us of God's wonderful creation. They can honor

a loved one, celebrate a special event or give glory to God. There are still dates available to sign up for flowers for the sanctuary. Since the suggested donation of \$30 does not cover the entire cost, the flowers are to be enjoyed by all, first in the service and the week following in the gathering space. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line through our giving page or call the office.



CHRISTIAN GROWTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vision Statement: To nurture Youth and Family in Christ through Bible based teaching, music, activities and community outreach.

Youth and Family Events:

- May 17- Columbus Clippers Baseball game
- May 19- Graduation Sunday
- June 10-13 Scuba Vacation Bible School, 5:30-8:30
- July 20- Family Hike and Picnic
- The rest of the year is coming soon.

The Sunday Worship of the Lutheran Church: Have you wondered why we do what we do in Sunday worship? Have you been curious about the history and development of Christian worship from the early church life today? Pastor Wendel is leading an in-depth 6 week study at 6:30pm at the church, which began Monday, April 8. Questions? Call or text Pastor Wendel 719-650-8171.



The Women's Bible Study: We are studying The Gospel of John: Part 1 by Tony Evans. Description: Where do you turn when the world around you grows dark? In this study of the Gospel of John, Dr. Tony Evans encourages us to

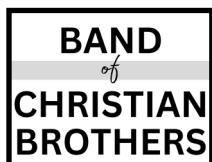


turn to Christ by reminding us of the two purposes for the beloved disciples book- that we would believe in Jesus and find life in his name. Despite what our culture may argue, there is only one hope that is truly trustworthy and that is our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you don't already have a RightNow Media account contact Molly King, m.king@grace43081.org.

Adult Bible Class: "The Seven Mountains" Every nation has seven primary areas of culture, or mountains, that are meant to be the format, or context in which we receive God's ever-increasing Kingdom. They are Media, Family, Arts & Entertainment, Economy, Religion, Education, and Government. How can we, as Christians, effectively impact the areas of culture in which we have influence or a passion for? Join the class for a study on the "Seven Mountains" beginning on April 28 at 9:45 in the fellowship hall. And is facilitated by Bill Kulju.



Grace "Band of Brothers" initial gathering for younger men/working men took place Thursday, April 18 with six men meeting at Wendell's Pub for devotion and conversation! The next gathering will be at Old Bag of Nails Pub, 24 North State Street, Westerville! At the first meeting, the men agreed that there is a need for Christian men to have the opportunity to develop friendships, talk about challenges to being disciples of Jesus today, especially in our increasingly secular society with pressure from all sides NOT to live our faith! Aaron Bally will lead the discussion at the May meeting. Younger/working men (and friends!) are invited to gather for these informal conversations! Should you have questions, please call or text Pastor Wendel, 719-650-8171, or email at d.wendel@grace43081.org.



HELP WANTED NEEDED! THE SECRET TO THE PAST SUCCESSES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR VOLUNTEERS - ADULTS AND OLDER TEENS THAT CAN RELATE TO THE YOUNGSTERS ATTENDING.

HELP WANTED - Crew Leaders: Elementary- An integral part of VBS, leading kids through VBS each day. (10 adults needed)- Crew Leaders: Preschoolers- An integral part of VBS, leading kids through VBS each day. (5 adults needed)- Assistant Leaders: Rising 6th graders thru adults to assist Crew Leaders and Station Leaders (15 volunteers needed) **VBS IS A GREAT CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR GRACE LUTHERAN. Sign up in the Gathering Space or Call Sarah Odum in the Grace office. 614-882-3026 VBS Training will take place Thursday, May 30 at 6:30pm.**

Spring Graduate Recognition: On Sunday, May 19 our high school and college graduates will be recognized at Sunday Service. We also highlight those young people in the June Voice of Grace. We request that you send a photo and brief bio of your sons, daughters and grandchildren, including the school they are graduating from, their activities and their plans for the future to Tom Seamon, Molly King or the office **no later than Sunday,**



May 12. Thanks so much and congratulations to you and your graduate(s).

Scuba VBS Registration is now OPEN! Monday, June 10 to Thursday, June 13, 5:30-8:30pm kids dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2024gracevbs>



RightNow Media: GRACE'S VIDEO LIBRARY CONTAINS OVER 10,000 TITLES Bible studies, leadership aids and kid shows are available to you in Grace's study library at NO CHARGE! The videos are suitable for all ages and stages of life and can be viewed on any device wherever you may be. Family members can have their own account. Take advantage of this service provided by the church. Molly (m.king@grace43091.org) can help you set up your free account and put you into the system. Many members and study leaders make use of this gift. If you haven't tried it, give it a shot. You are going to like it.



Choirs at Grace:



- **Grace Youth Choir** rehearsals are part of the Sunday School opening which takes place Sundays from 9:30-9:50am in the 2nd floor Sunday School room. Contact Jeff Daubenmire, Director of Music Ministries.
- **Grace Chancel Choir** rehearsals are 7:00-8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jeff Daubenmire with questions or interest in singing.
- **Grace Ringers Bell Choir** rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:15-7PM. Contact Maria Laderman with questions or interest in ringing.

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAYS *Let all that you do be done in love". (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

May Shopping List:

- Cooking Oil
- Non-Sweetened Cereal
- Salad Dressings
- Juices – Apple, Cranberry, Grape, Tomato
- Long Pasta Noodles-Spaghetti Lasagna
- Decaffeinated Coffee
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Laundry Detergent
- Diapers – Sizes 4.5.6, and
- Baby Wipes.

We cannot accept food that has reached its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to WARM. Make Checks Payable to: Grace Lutheran Church, memo notation for WARM. Blessings to all who are making this a part of your regular tithes and offerings.



A Handup Volunteer Opportunities for WARM:

- WARM is looking for volunteers to help **Stamp Out Hunger!** If you are interested in helping the Westerville Post Office with their annual food drive, please let Julia (email below) know. Volunteers are needed from 2:30-4:00 on Saturday, May 11th at the US Post Office at 617 McCorkle Blvd. Email julia@warmwesterville.org.
- Are you an ardent recycler? Enjoy helping the planet and making a difference at WARM? Consider helping us with our efforts to **recycle plastic films and wraps** by taking a load of plastic from WARM to a drop off facility (Meijer, Kroger or Kohl's) each week. If you are interested in helping in this way, please let me know, and I will connect you with Chuck, our recycling guru!!
- If you or someone you know are looking for a great part-time summer job, please consider applying for the **Kids Lunch Club** program! If you have questions, please reach out to Delaney at delaney@warmwesterville.org and find out more details and job descriptions on our website.
- WARM is looking for a volunteer **Medical Professional** (doctor or nurse) to help onsite for our upcoming **5K race** this September. Please let me know if you qualify and might be willing to help!

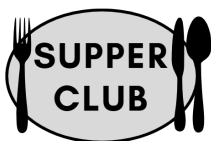
HOSPITALITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY is OPEN! The Nursery is open Sunday mornings during both services and the Sunday School hour. Trained, professional sitters are present every week to care for your children, ages 6 and younger. Questions? Molly King, 614-882-3026 or m.king@grace43081.org.



Loaves and Fishes café is OPEN! Please stop in between services for a drink and a snack! There is a sign-up sheet in the café if you are interested in helping. Please call Vanessa Stewart, 614-588-2712 with any questions or concerns.

Grace Supper Club had a wonderful evening at Cap City Diner in Dublin last month. It was a bit of a trek, but we enjoyed seeing how much the area has changed, and our server treated us all to free dessert. For May, we have a reservation at Hofbrauhaus Columbus Brewery and Restaurant on Thursday, May 16 at 6:15 p.m. Hofbrauhaus is located at 800 Goodale Blvd, Columbus 43212. A sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center Desk. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!** Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Any questions, please see either Bev Grubb or Tami Stone.



MUSIC NOTES

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” – arr. Peter Pindar Stearns

This hymn by Augustus M. Toplady (1740-1778) is about sin and salvation, about our helpless need, and about the all-sufficiency of Christ's atonement. The metaphor of the Rock of Ages is found variously in Isaiah 26:4, Exodus 33:22, and 1 Corinthians 10:4. A single four-line stanza of the hymn text first appeared in the *Gospel Magazine* published by Toplady in 1775. It came at

the end of an article titled “Life – a Journey,” a message of hope of all who had fallen into sin. The complete poem appeared in the same magazine in March 1776 with the heading “A living and dying Prayer for the Holiest Believer in the World.”

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” – arr. Janet Linker

Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984) wrote this poem in response to an invitation by the Hymn Society of America to submit hymns on social welfare. It was named “Conference Hymn” for the second National Conference on the Churches and Social Welfare held in Cleveland, Ohio, October 23-27, 1961. The Hymn Society Published it in *Seven New Social Welfare Hymns* (1961). It first appeared in a major volume in *Methodist Hymnal* (1964).

“Oriental” – Enrique Granados

Enrique Granados (1867-1916) was a Spanish composer and pianist. He studied piano and composition at the Barcelona Conservatory then continued his compositional studies in Paris. He made his recital debut in Barcelona in 1890 and first supported himself by playing piano in restaurants and giving private concerts. He first attracted attention as a composer with his opera *María del Carmen*, but his greatest masterpiece was a series of pieces entitled *Goyescas*, inspired by the paintings and etchings of Francisco Goya. He tragically lost his life at sea in 1916 – the victim of the sinking by a German submarine of the S.S. Sussex in the English Channel on a return trip from New York.

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace” – arr. Victor C. Johnson

This arrangement is based on an anonymous text that is usually called the “Prayer of Saint Francis,” a widely known Christian prayer for peace. It is often associated with the Italian Saint Francis of Assisi (c. 1182-1226), but the prayer in its present form has not been traced back further than 1912 when it first appeared in French in a small spiritual magazine called *La Clochette* (The Little Bell), published by a Catholic organization in Paris named *La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe* (The League of the Holy Mass.)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” – arr. John Purifoy

Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1886) wrote these words circa 1855 to comfort his mother in a time of sorrow, never intending them to have any wider use. A friend saw the manuscript when sitting with Scriven during the author’s last illness. Scriven admitted “The Lord and I wrote it between us.” The hymn evidently appeared first (and anonymously) in Horace L. Hastings’s *Social Hymns, Original and Selected* (1865).

“Abide with Me” – arr. John Purifoy

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) wrote this hymn in 1847 as he was about to leave his pastorate at Lower Brixham and take a trip to Southern France in an unsuccessful effort to regain his health. The opening words were inspired by Luke 24:29, “Abide with us: for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.” The poem appeared in a leaflet in 1847 and then in the *Remains of Henry Francis Lyte* (1850).

“Postlude on Truro” – arr. Michael Bedford

Brian Wren (b. 1936) wrote this hymn in April 1968 for Easter after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. He “tried to express an Easter hope out of that terrible event,” rather than Easter as “long ago, far away, and high above.” The tune TRURO gets its name for a city in Cornwall, England.



Scan to *Simply Give*

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace's online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.

Financial Update: If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer's report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Melissa Hodek, at melissa.hodek@gmail.com and it will be emailed to you.

5th Sunday of Easter: 8:15am: 96; 11:00am: 103; Total: 199

**VBS Registration
NOW OPEN**
5:30-8:00pm
Monday, June 10-Thursday, June 13

SCUBA
diving into friendship with God

For kids age 4 through rising 6th grade
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Westerville
www.Grace43081.org

The graphic features the word 'SCUBA' in large, colorful, bubbly letters (S: yellow, C: teal, U: orange, B: purple, A: orange) resting on a green rock. The background is a vibrant underwater scene with various corals, sea anemones, and bubbles. The text is overlaid on the scene in a clean, sans-serif font.

Serving Today

OFFICIATING/ PREACHER	The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel
ASSISTING MINISTER	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Jeff Daubemire
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
CANTOR	Julie Hotchkiss
LECTOR	8:15 Lisa Kuhar 11:00 Sue Mahrt
ACOLYTE	8:15 Benny Hoch 11:00 Charlie Nickoli
COMMUNION	8:15 Ted Ray
ASSISTANT	11:00 Nelson Grover
GREETERS	8:15 Vanessa Stewart 11:00 Kenny and Cindy Odum
USHERS	8:15 Lisa Kuhar, Kathy Haegele, Vanessa Stewart, Miguel Arreguin 11:00 Jim Claflin, Paul Hotchkiss, Tom Moser
FIRST	8:15 Jodie and Miguel Arreguin
FRUITS	11:00 Jennifer and Stella Blankenship
CARE TEAM	Joanne Figge, Susan Miller, Janet Breen, Tami Stone, Coleen Wooster, Vanessa Stewart, Cindy Odum, Christine Troutman, Sue Monroe, Margery Zimmermann, Paul Whitacre, Peggy Jones, Marge Cepek, Eloise Collier, Donna Dettmann, Shirley Hodek, Charlotte Schaller
ALTAR GUILD <i>Team 1</i>	Linda Seamon, Cheryl Bush, Andrea Bush, Jean Claflin, Dorothy Crain, Denise Reynard, Lou Swanson, Barb and Tom Moser
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush, Brice Graves
NURSERY ATTENDANTS	Michelle Ulrich, Cassidy Reese



This Week at Grace: May 5-12, 2024

May 5

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Pr. David Wendel

8:15 am Worship Service

9:30 am Youth Sunday School, High School Sunday School, and
Confirmation

9:45 am Adult Learning

11:00 am Worship Service

12:30 pm Youth and Family Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

MON

1:00 pm Katharine Circle

6:30pm Worship of the Lutheran Church Study (Fellowship Hall)

TUES

Clipper's Ticket Sign-up Deadline

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

WED.

10:30 am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 pm Grace Ringers Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm Grace Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURS

6:30 pm Band of Brothers @ Old Bag of Nails

VBS Training moved to 6:30pm May 30

FRI.

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT

9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

May 12

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING

Pr. David Wendel

8:15 am Worship Service

9:30 am Youth Sunday School and High School Sunday School

9:30 am Confirmation Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

9:45 am Adult Learning

11:00 am Worship Service

Red Geranium Orders Due

Acknowledgements

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“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing.” Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, alt. Music: T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP), Carol Stream, IL. OneLicense. Music Public Domain.

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service.” Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984. Music: The Sacred Heart, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985. Text © 1961 Oxford University Press, OneLicense. Arr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress, OneLicense. Tune: Public Domain.

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me.” Text: Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778. Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872. Text and Tune: Public Domain.

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.” Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt. Text, Tune, Arrangement: Public Domain.

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me/TOPLADY” – arr. Peter Pindar Stearns, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Baptism and Communion*, ©1978 Augsburg Fortress

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service/BEACH SPRING” – arr. Janet Linker, from *Sunday Morning Suite: Three Preludes on Early American Hymn Tunes* by Janet Linker, ©2002 Augsburg Fortress

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace” – arr. Victor C. Johnson, ©2014 Lorenz Publishing Co.

“What a Fried We Have in Jesus” – arr. John Purifoy, ©2013 Hal Leonard Corporation

“Abide With Me” – arr. John Purifoy, ©2013 Hal Leonard Corporation

“Postlude on *TRURO*” – arr. Michael Bedford, from *Oxford Hymn Settings for Organists: Easter and Ascension (Vol. 4)*, ©2015 Oxford University Press



GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westerville, Ohio

100 East Schrock Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081

Phone: (614) 882-3026

Pr. David Wendel: (719) 650-8171

E-mail: office@grace43081.org

Website: www.grace43081.org

<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 115 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for four AA groups.

Vision Statement: We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.