

**JESUS SAID:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER,
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.**

**resurrection
REALity**

Easter 6 – May 5, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for Today

The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in one word: LOVE. God's Law is all about love. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart"* and *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:37,39). The gospel is all about love: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son"* (John 3:16). From His compassion for the sick and broken, to His sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace He provided after His resurrection, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. Love is *His* business. Therefore, love is *our* business too. The resurrection reality is that with the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life—one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because He first loved us.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Mike Jensen, Kurt Knurr
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

Address: 6788 FM 115 - Scroggins, TX 75480
Phone: 903-860-3749
Website: www.graceneearthelake.com
Email: graceneearthelake@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/graceneearthelake1
Prayer Requests: prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com /
text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



WORSHIP SERVICE

557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 557 sts. 1, 8–10



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joi-ce, with ex - ul - ta - tion
8 "The foe will shed my pre-cious blood, me of my life be -
9 "Now to my Fa - ther I de - part, the Ho - ly Spir - it
10 "What I on earth have lived and taught be all your life and



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly
reav - ing; all this I suf - fer for your good; be stead - fast
send - ing and, heav'n - ly wis - dom to im - part, my help to
teach - ing; so shall my king - dom's work be wrought and hon - ored



rap - ture sing - ing, pro - claim the won - ders God has done, how
and be - liev - ing. Life will from death the vic - t'ry win; my
you ex - tend - ing. He will a source of com - fort be, teach
in your preach - ing. Take care that no one's man - made laws should



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!
in - no - cence shall bear your sin, and you are blest for - ev - er.
you to know and fol - low me, and in all truth will guide you.
e'er de - stroy the gos - pel's cause; this fi - nal word I leave you."

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Opening Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession & Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly
 4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun -
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my
 da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for
 moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life
 my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought
 had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
 Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524
 Text and tune: Public domain

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Our citizenship is in heaven. (Philippians 3:20) And we eagerly await a Savior from there; the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ, who is your life, appears again in the same way He ascended into heaven, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
 (Colossians 3:4)

Never again will we hunger; never again will we thirst. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our Shepherd. He will lead us to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. (*Revelation 7:16-17*)

We now have peace with God through Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Ro. 5:1*)
Let us respond to His grace and forgiveness by clinging to Him in faith, and following Him all the way home to heaven:

557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 557 st. 7

7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me, I am your rock and
cas - tle. Your ran - som I my - self will be; for you I
strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, your friend di - vine, and
ev - er - more you shall be mine; the foe shall not di - vide us.

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

O God, You are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, Your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through Your gracious guidance, accomplish it to Your glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 9:36–42

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

³⁹Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive.

⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;

with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,

that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, LORD,

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,

who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;

they celebrate your righteousness.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7–11,19–21

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

**Alleluia, and now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love. Alleluia.**



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

John 15:9–17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not

choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.”

Children’s Message & Song

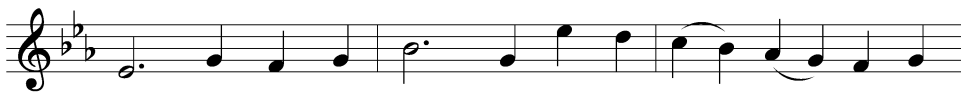
Jesus loves me, this I know

728 This Is My Will

CW 728 sts. 1–4



1 This is my will, my one com - mand, that love should
 2 No great - er love can be than this; to choose to
 3 I call you now no long - er slaves; no slave knows
 4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should



dwel a - mong you all. This is my will, that you should
 die to save one’s friends. You are my friends if you o -
 all his mas - ter does. I call you friends, for all I
 go and bear much fruit. I chose you out that you in



love as I have shown that I love you.
 bey what I com - mand that you should do.
 hear my Fa - ther say you hear from me.
 me should bear much fruit that will a - bide.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, alt.

Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

Text: © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-712787

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 15:9-17 “*Μυ ἀγάπη Friend*”

5 All that you ask my Fa - ther dear for my name's
 sake you shall re - ceive. This is my will, my one com -
 mand, that love should dwell in each, in all.

Offering

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Christian Church,
the Communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank You for all Your mercies, especially for the gift of Your Son, through whom You have revealed Your gracious will. He love us, and still does, with God's pure and holy love. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and His working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend Your Church, that by Your Word and Sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity,

Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them Your love, and take them into Your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for all those who need your love and help in some way . . .

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You, and who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness, pain, or grief.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, according to Your good and perfect will, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

In Him we have confidence to approach Your throne, O God.

Blessed Lord, You have given us Your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

721 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CW 721



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Acknowledgments

Setting Eight (German) from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.[™] Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Outreach Event

Thank you to everyone who helped out, participated in, and attended our Grace Fun Day yesterday. May God bless the Gospel seeds of love that we seek to scatter around our community.

Potluck Lunch + Council / LoG

Join us for lunch after the service if you are able to stick around! Council will meet (GMC) to discuss the insurance issue (Church Mutual has decided to cancel our policy, as they have for many of our churches in TX). The Ladies of Grace will gather in the fellowship area after the lunch.

Bible Classes

Please consider participating in one (or more) of our weekly classes – 1 Corinthians on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. “Radical Sayings of Jesus” Monday mornings at 10 am at Jo’s Coffee in Mt. Pleasant. Exodus on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month (10:30 am at Grace) with the men’s and women’s lunch out to follow at 11:30 am. The Discovering Grace class on Christian doctrine is available to anyone interested, speak with Pastor to arrange a time.

Hosanna’s Graduation & Halldorson Open House

Dear Grace Family, you are all invited to join us in celebrating Hosanna's high school graduation. While Wisconsin is a long way to go to attend her *actual* graduation, you can view the ceremony on May 25th at 10am here - <https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/specialservices>.

You are also invited to our home for a post graduation Open House! Come on over to Halldorson Hacienda on Sunday, June 2 from 1-4 pm. We are at 245 Private Road 2714 in Mt. Pleasant. If you've never been to our place and plan on coming, please ask us ahead of

time for directions just to make sure you make it to the right place. (GPS can get it wrong.) Please RSVP to Rachel for the gate code.

Hosanna is planning on attending Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN in the fall. She'd like to be a Christian Day School teacher and earn her degree in elementary education. Your support and prayers are always appreciated! *Rachel Halldorson*

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Today	11:00 am	Potluck Lunch
Today	11:45 am	Ladies of Grace / Council (GMC)
May 6	10:00 am	Bible Class at Jo's in Mt. Pleasant
May 7	all day	Pastor's circuit golf outing
May 8	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
May 9	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
May 12	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
May 13	10:00 am	Bible Class at Jo's in Mt. Pleasant
May 15	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
May 16	10:00 am	MWM at the GMC
May 16	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class
May 19	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + <u>Communion</u>
May 20	10:00 am	Bible Class at Jo's in Mt. Pleasant
May 22	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class

*Please note, Pastor and his family are in WI from **May 23-30**. Bible classes will be on hold for that week; worship will still be held Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Communion has been moved from the 26th to the 19th.*

— LET'S CELEBRATE —
EASTER
— TOGETHER —