

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Second Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

Commissioning Service for Lynette Momier and Sandi Tallant as Stephen Ministers

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

* Order for Individual Confession and Forgiveness page 155

PRAISE

* Opening Hymn **I Know that My Redeemer Lives!** **LBW 352**

* The Kyrie page 57

* The Hymn of Praise.....*This is the Feast*..... Page 60

* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day.....page 62

EQUIP

The First Lesson.....Acts 4:32-35

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

The Psalm 148 Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson 1 John 1:1-2:2

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

* The Holy Gospel.....John 20:19-31

Children's SermonPastor Coble

The Message....."Hunting for Darkness".....Pastor Coble

Hymn of the Day.....**O Jesus, I Have Promised** **LBW 503**

* The Apostles Creed.....page 65

* The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

* The Offertory and Prayer pages 66, 67

RECEIVE

* The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68

* The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayer pages 69, 71

* **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**

* Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*..... page 72

* Post-Communion Prayer

* The Benediction

SEND

* The Sending Hymn**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** **LBW 315**

* The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: There is darkness in our lives. If we claim that there isn't, we make God a liar. He tells us that we all sin and fall short of His glory. But today we are also reminded of the good news, in Jesus Christ we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Come to God and confess your sins and receive His forgiveness.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

PSALM 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

²**Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.**

³Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

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

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD;
for he commanded, and they were created.

**⁶He made them stand fast forever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

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

**⁸Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

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

**¹⁰Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;**

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

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

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

**¹⁴He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 1:1-2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 3:11-21; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-49. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Kevin & Christy Adams, Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Sheila Drum, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, John & Terry Barnett, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Dennis D'Alessino, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Katie Patton, Kathy Rihani, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Cassie

Taylor, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR GARY COBLE who is leading worship this morning.

THE RITE OF COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS will be held at the worship service this morning. Lynette Momier and Sandi Tallant have completed Stephen Ministry Training. After worship, we will have a covered dish reception in the Fellowship Hall for our new Stephen Ministers. Please bring a dish to share. We pray God's blessing on them as they minister to those in need.

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION will meet tomorrow, April 8th, at 6:00 pm.

40 DAYS OF PRAYERS – The Congregation has been asked by the Call Committee for 40 days of prayers that began on Easter Sunday in our search for a new pastor. The prayers need to be from the heart, but if you are struggling, prayers are in the hymnals. This is part of the Call Process. May God Bless You...Your Grace Call Committee

ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) food ask for the month of April is **canned and dried beans.** Since the service area has been expanded to include all of Catawba County, there is a great need for food donations and volunteers. **THANK YOU** to the disciples at Grace for the 67 pounds of food that were donated and delivered to Ashure on March 11, 2024 and 50 more pounds on March 26, 2024. Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Narthex. If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice; we do not have a standing order with any florist.* Please notify the Church Office the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday so that the correct information is placed in the bulletin. You can call the Church Office between 8:00 am and Noon on Monday through Thursday, leave a note in the Church Office mailbox downstairs, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

APPLICATIONS FOR PART-TIME SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION are now being accepted by Grace. For details, see a Board Member.

*“Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.”*

Psalm 148:1

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:

- 8 – Andrea Crouse
- 11 – Jennifer Bivens
- 13 – Ricky Bivens

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:30A – Sunday School
- 10:30A - Worship Celebration
- Commission of Stephen Ministers
- (Covered Dish Reception immediately following
Worship – Fellowship Hall)

Monday:

6:00P – Stephen Ministry Supervision

Saturday:

9:00A – Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas

Next Sunday:

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:30A – Sunday School
- 10:30A – Worship Celebration

The Ministers.....	The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist.....	Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant	Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President	Tim Eckard
Youth Leader	Stormy Shull
Lector	Stormy Shull
Communion Assistants.....	To Be Determined Week by Week
Ushers	Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation.....	Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators	Todd Childers and Libby Travis
Custodian	Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

The Second Sunday of Easter | April 7, 2024



JOHN 20:19-31

“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” Vs. 21

This text is not only appointed for the Second Sunday of Easter in this, the one-year-lectionary, but it is also the appointed text for the Second Sunday of Easter in all years of the three-year-lectionary. The reading essentially has four scenes. The first scene is that of Jesus coming into the upper room sealed by a locked door and the disciples' fear. The second scene has the disciples recounting their locked room experience to Thomas who had been absent that night. In the third scene, the circumstances of that first night were duplicated except that on this night Thomas was there and confessed his belief. The concluding scene is but a commentary and commendation of the entire book of John to you so that you, like Thomas, may believe and have life in Jesus' name.

To have life in Jesus' name means to be sent out by Jesus in the same way that Jesus was sent out by the Father (vs. 21). Recall, if you will, the manna which fed God's people while they were in the wilderness. The manna came daily. The people harvested sufficient manna for the day... for two days if it was the day before the Sabbath. The manna could not be stored up. If the people tried to accumulate it, the manna turned rancid and filled with worms. Having life

in Jesus' name is like that manna. You can't accumulate it, nor can you store it up. God's people receive that life from the Word... the Word of God, Jesus Christ. It comes fresh to them from the pulpit, the font, and the altar. Neither can God's people stay accumulated together, they must be sent out as Jesus himself was sent. Faith and life in Jesus' name must be received fresh. Accumulated, they are but yesterday's faith, a faith gone rancid and full of legalism. Once the Word has delivered God's people to faith and life in Jesus' name, they must be sent out. Otherwise, they, too, become rancid and full of themselves. This gathering in and this sending out is the Holy Spirit's work, breathed out by Jesus himself. Gathering and sending are the inhalation and the exhalation of the Holy Spirit.

Table Talk: Discuss the necessity of the sending out, the dangers of yesterday's faith, and the hazards that befall believers in a bunch.

Pray: Heavenly Father, send me out yet keep your hand upon me. Amen



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