

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Fourth Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Order for Individual Confession and Forgiveness page 155

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **Thine is the Glory** **LBW 145**
- * 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 4:1-12

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

The Psalm 23 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson 1 John 3:16-24

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

- * The Holy Gospel..... John 10:11-18
- Children's Sermon Pastor East
- The Message..... "The Good Shepherd"..... Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day..... **Children of the Heavenly Father** **LBW 474**
- * 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 **He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!** **LBW 501**
- * 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: Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. This is an image God has already used for himself (Psalm 23). A shepherd does a lot of good things for his flock, but Jesus takes it a big step further: He says that the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. John tells us how we can follow in Jesus' example.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:1-12

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-11(12-21); John 15:1-8. 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, Jeffrey 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, Gary Leatherman, 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, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Dennis Di'Allesio, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Family of Coble Hartman, Larry Heavner, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Alexis McCrary, 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 BRACK EAST who is leading worship this morning.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family of Coble Hartman, grandson of Pastor Gary and Hope, who entered the Church Triumphant on April 13, 2024. May God comfort all who mourn.

THE CALL COMMITTEE has completed the profile for a new pastor and is currently attempting to update the church website. We need recent pictures of Grace showing the church, the fellowship hall or any others that you may have. Other suggestions are pictures at a reunion, birthday party, VBS, or a play in the sanctuary. We will let you know if there is anything else that is needed to update the site.

40 DAYS OF PRAYERS – The Congregation is being 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. The input from the Congregation thus far has been instrumental. 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. It's a way to make a real difference right here in Catawba County! 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.* The liturgical color of the day is listed to assist you in selecting flowers appropriate for that Sunday. 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.

*“The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.”*

Psalm 23:1

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:

22 – Libby Travis

23 – Ethan Starnes

Aundrea Waldrop

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

Next Sunday:

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A – Worship Celebration

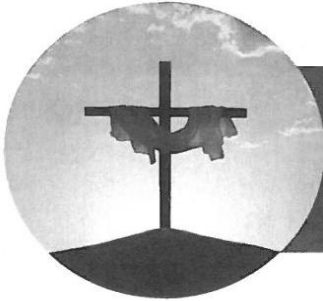
The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
LectorStormy Shull
Communion Assistants.....To Be Determined Week by Week
Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation..... 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter | April 21, 2024



JOHN 16:16-22

"...I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice..."

Vs. 22

This passage repeats itself as it recounts Jesus giving these words to his disciples, "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." Jesus says them to the disciples; the disciples say them to one another; and Jesus says them again. In that ancient middle eastern culture, to say something three times made it a reality. Jesus' going away and his coming again are a reality his disciples will experience and endure. To cement this reality into the minds of his disciples, Jesus gives them the concrete example of a woman giving birth. The anguish of the delivery does not compare to the joy of having the child. The Apostle Paul uses the same analogy as he writes, "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now" (Ro. 8:27). The author of Hebrews delivers a similar pronouncement, "Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross..." (He. 12:2). The pattern is obvious: sorrow now, joy later... anguish now, rejoicing later... faith now, sight later... cross now, glory later...

In the immediate context of this passage from John 16, Jesus' "see me no longer" refers to his death and entombment while his "you will see

me" refers to his resurrection and subsequent appearances. In the larger context, Jesus' not being seen and his being seen once again can be applied to his ascension where he was "taken from their sight" (Acts 1:9) and then to his coming again "with great power and glory" (Mk. 13:26). This larger context includes us. You and I live as the disciples did on Holy Saturday. Jesus is gone from their sight; they are in sorrow and anguish. The cross is their immediate reality. Yet... they have the promise of the resurrection. You and I live out the days of our baptism as one long Holy Saturday. We endure its sorrow, anguish, and cross because the joy of the resurrection has been set before us. So that you and I would have faith to sustain us until that day of "great power and glory," the Holy Spirit comes in the words of our preacher.

Table Talk: Discuss how being a "Holy Saturday" people is different from being an "Easter People."

Pray: Heavenly Father, sustain me in faith that I would endure the cross and its shame until that great day. Amen



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