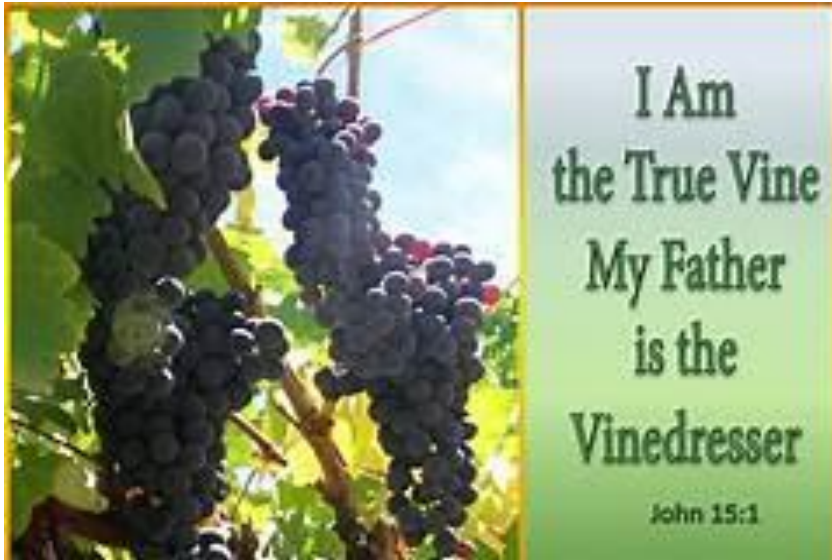


Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Fifth Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

* Order for Individual Confession and Forgiveness page 155

PRAISE

* Opening Hymn **Lift High the Cross** **LBW 377**

* 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 8:26-40

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

The Psalm 150 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson 1 John 4:1-21

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

* The Holy Gospel.....John 15:1-8

Children's Sermon Pastor East

The Message.....Pastor East

Hymn of the Day.....**Softly and Tenderly** **TCH 479**

* 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 **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee** **LBW 551**

* 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 used the familiar image of a vine to describe the nature of our dependent relationship with Him. Referring to Himself as the true vine that gives life to and supports the entirety of the bush, Jesus declared that nothing good could be done apart from His life-giving presence.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

PSALM 150

¹Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple;
praise him in the firmament of his power.

²**Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him for his excellent greatness.**

³Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn;
praise him with lyre and harp.

⁴**Praise him with timbrel and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe.**

⁵Praise him with resounding cymbals;
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

⁶**Let everything that has breath
praise the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 4:1-21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17. 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.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Helen Leatherman's birthday
by her family.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: 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, 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, 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, Larry Milsaps, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, 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 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, etc. 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.

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH 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. May God Bless You...Your Grace Call Committee

ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) food ask for the month of May is pet food (National Pet Month). 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 the recent donation of 45 pounds of food to help keep the food pantry stocked.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS ON THURSDAY, MAY 2ND – This year's theme is "Lift Up the Word – Light Up the World."

THE GRACE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY for an afternoon of faith, fun, food and fellowship **next Sunday, May 5th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Included in the event will be a free concert, children's activities, food vendors and giveaways. Following performances by local soloists and musical groups, award winning inspirational/country artist, Shellem Cline, will perform. Along with his musical performance, Shellem includes humor, encouragement, inspiration and the message of the Gospel. Bring a yard chair or blanket to enjoy the music.

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

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Hallelujah!
Psalm 150:6

HAPPY APRIL/MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 29 – Tim Leatherman
- 4 – Kim Jenkins
- 5 – Jaxson Moss

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Thursday:

National Day of Prayer

Next Sunday:

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:30A – Sunday School
- 10:30A – Worship Celebration
- 2:00P – Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
- Faith, Fun, Food, Fellowship

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter | April 21, 2024



JOHN 16:5-15

“...he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” Vs. 8

You're wrong! Nobody likes to hear those words. Yet, here's Jesus saying "Good-bye" to his disciples and telling them that the coming Holy Spirit intends to do just that. The Helper's first task is to tell you and the whole world that you are wrong: wrong about sin... wrong about righteousness... wrong about judgment.

You and the world are wrong about sin... wrong because you do not believe in Jesus. You and the world define sin as bad behavior or evil inclinations. The Holy Spirit comes to teach you that sin concerns faith (Ro. 14:23b). This is the faith that possess you and, in possessing you, takes you away from sin so that you no longer live in it (Ro. 6:2). Bad behavior is no longer an issue; the good heart of the one possessed by faith no longer sins.

You and the world are wrong about righteousness... wrong because Jesus has gone to the Father and you see him no longer. You and the world grasp after a righteousness of your own person. You do not now or ever have a righteousness of your own person. Your and the world's righteousness comes only from Jesus Christ. His righteousness is given to you and received by you only in faith, for faith. Faith receives it from the pulpit, the font, and the altar.

You and the world are wrong about judgment... wrong because the ruler of this world has already been judged. Satan, the ruler of this world, uses his lies upon you... lies that turn you to the fruit of the forbidden tree... lies that tempt you to use that illicitly gained knowledge of good and evil as the criteria for your judgment. And so, as Satan has already been judged, your illicitly gained judgment is faulted as well. Jesus Christ is your Lord over sin... your Lord in providing righteousness... your Lord in judgment.

Table Talk: Discuss the implications of being told, "You're wrong."

Pray: Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ, use your Holy Spirit to give me what is yours . Amen



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