



**The Resurrection of our Lord**  
**April 5, 2026 • 10:30am**  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**



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Sandi Tallant – Organist    Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to selfish ways and doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive our lack of faith. Have mercy on our weakness. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another trusting that “if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Gracious Father, **You sent your Son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we might live a new life in Him. Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us. Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and enable us by His resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness:*

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary Magdalene calls out, “I have seen the Lord!” We have seen Christ, too, in Word and Sacrament, in the body of Christ, the Church, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and love. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, Son + and Holy

Spirit; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you, grants you new life and fills you Christ's resurrection power. **Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY" LBW128**

**\*GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**First Reading: Job 19:23-27**

<sup>23</sup>"Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! <sup>24</sup>Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! <sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup>And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup>whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!"

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

PSALM 118:21-28 (Read responsively – Congregation bold verses)

<sup>21</sup>I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>**The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup>This is | the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous | in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>**On this day the LORD has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup>Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! LORD, send us now success.

<sup>26</sup>**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house | of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup>God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup>“**You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.**”

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15: 12-22, 51-58**

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

<sup>51</sup> Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” LBW 151 (verse 1 & 3)**

*1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

## **GOSPEL: JOHN 20: 19-31**

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

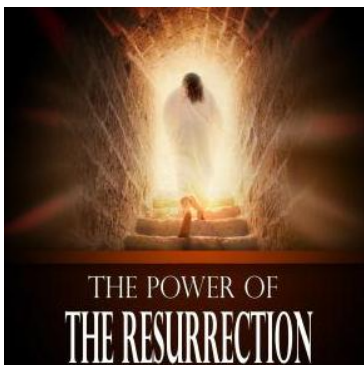
<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S/YOUTH MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**



***“Easter Changes Everything: Our Risen Lord Brings Resurrection Peace, Power, and Purpose to Our Lives!”***

**Pastor Doug Hefner**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (verses 1-4) LBW 352**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Worshippers may kneel (or sit).*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The assembly stands.*

*Worshippers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ" or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING** In response to God's blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord.

**HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE**

**\* OFFERTORY**

**Let the Vineyards**



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

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. On this glorious day we give thanks for the victory that our Lord has won over sin and death. C: **As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and share your blessings with those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## \* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE



☐ 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.

## \* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



☑ 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.

\* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

\* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All are invited to receive Holy Communion

**COMMUNION SONG**      **Lamb of God**



**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.**

\***BLESSING AND CANTICLE**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in His grace now and always. **C: Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**PASTORAL BLESSING** The Lord bless you and keep you.... **C: Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen and that changes everything! Renewed in Christ’s victory over sin and death, let us go in peace and share the good news of God’s love in word and deed!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by the disciples of Grace Church.

**In the Grace Church Family:**

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Waylon Parker, Alice Parris, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

**Nursing Home:** Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Helen Smith (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, Terry & John Barnett, Ashlee Bumgardner, Travis Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Anne Poovey, Randy & Rita Neill, Donald Smith, and Scott Speagle. Prayers for world peace and for our church, the United States of America, 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.

**COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK****Today: Resurrection of Our Lord**

7:00 am – Sunrise Service in Union Church – Easter Breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall

9:15 am – Sunday School – Meet in upstairs classroom.

10:30am - Worship Celebration in Main Sanctuary

## **Wednesday:**

*There will be no Wednesday Service this week. We will resume Wednesday services on April 15<sup>th</sup>.*

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Grace is part of a community VBS with 5 other churches. This year's VBS is *Illumination Station: Shining a Light On Who Jesus Really Is!* The date is Sunday, 5/31 to Thursday 6/4 from 5:30-8pm. Dinner is served each night followed by Bible stories, music, crafts, and games! Children, youth and adults may register at <https://www.zionhickory.org/vbs-2026>. Volunteers are needed. Next planning meeting is 3/20 5:30 at Zion or see Shelly Scronce for details. Grace will be hosting the ***Carolina's Mission District Solid Rock Day Camp*** again this year. The dates are **Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19.** The camp is for children/youth 4K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will have college age counselors and a seminarian to lead the camp. The hours are 9 am - 4 pm Monday-Thursday, 9 am- 12 noon on Friday The week will include Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun!

## **Upcoming Dates:**

Fri/Sat May 1&2: Carolina's Mission District Convocation in Salisbury, NC.  
Sunday, May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 10, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day, Gifts for Mothers  
Sunday, May 18, Seventh Sunday of Easter / Celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord  
Sunday, May 24, The Day of Pentecost, We will honor our veterans who have died in serving our nation (Memorial Day is Monday, May 25)  
Sunday, May 31 Holy Trinity Sunday  
Sunday, May 31 – Thursday, June 4 Illumination Station VBS (see announcement)  
Sunday, June 7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun aft Pentecost  
Sunday, June 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun aft Pentecost (evening social to welcome Day Campers)  
Mon-Friday, June 15-19, Solid Rock Day Camp Hosted by Grace, 9am-4pm  
Sunday, June 21, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun aft Pentecost, Father's Day, Gifts for Fathers

*Blessing Box Maintenance & Replenishment  
Schedule*

**Week 1 – Stewardship Finance Ministry Team**  
**Week 2 – Discipleship Ministry Team**  
**Week 3 – Worship Ministry Team**  
**Week 4 – Stewardship Property Ministry Team**  
**Week 5 - (if applicable) – Discipleship Ministry  
Team**

*Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace*  
*Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner    Board President – Tim Eckard*  
*Lector – Todd Childers    Youth Leader – Stormy Shull*  
*Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens & Nicky Jarrett*  
*Communion Assistants – Tina Hefner & Nicky Jarrett*  
*Ushers – Jack Parris & Allen Biggerstaff*  
*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jeff Scronce*



# *Listening for the Promise*

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

**Easter Day – April 5, 2026**

*“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid;  
go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.’”*

*- Matthew 28:10 -*

## **Do Not Be Afraid**

We experience the joy and peace of the Resurrection of Jesus with twenty-twenty vision. The revelation of Jesus and the truth of His teachings were not revealed to us suddenly. We wonder how they didn't know. We wonder why they were afraid. We have seen the end of the story, we know God's work of salvation was fulfilled in Jesus. They didn't have the same perspective. They lived the horror of the crucifixion and despite Jesus' promises, never expected the events of Easter Sunday. They did not know what would happen next.

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb to take care of Jesus' body. A great earthquake shook the earth, and they discovered the tomb was empty. An angel told them not to be afraid. I don't know about you, but those words rarely have the intended effect. The women had reason to be afraid: an earthquake, an angel, and no body. The angel told them to go tell the disciples that He had risen. They departed with fear and great joy. Then Jesus appeared before them and said, "Greetings!" They fell at His feet and worshipped Him. Now, more than ever, you might think that they would let go of the fear. Jesus was alive and standing before them, but He knew this was more than they could bear. "Do not be afraid. Go and tell the good news." Jesus gave them peace to do what they were called to do. Jesus comes to us in the same way: to give us courage to go and tell His story despite our fear.

The empty tomb was a sign that God did something amazing with Jesus, but everything became clear as Jesus appeared to the witnesses. Their stories make it clear to us today. We look back and see God's work finished in Jesus, and experience peace that we could never know without Him. Peace of heart. Peace with God. Peace that changes the world. We are now called to join with the first witnesses in sharing that peace, preaching that Christ died but was raised by the God who keeps His promises.