



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about “**Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.**”

If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **both services** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.

THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2026

Today in Worship

Christians are “faith alone” people. We most often think of that in terms of salvation: we are saved by faith alone! But throughout our daily life, Christians function by faith alone. We practice generous stewardship by faith alone, trusting in the God who supplies all our needs. We keep God’s commands by faith alone, confident that His ways are better than our ways. And we pray by faith alone, assured our loving God has opened His door and His heart to hear and answer us. It is faith, and faith alone, that fuels us for life today and secures us for the life to come.



Ringling of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #837

“Lift High the Cross”

Invocation & Sentences

John 3:16; 17:3

P In the name of the Father and of the **✠** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
C **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

P And this is eternal life,
C **that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

Confession & Absolution

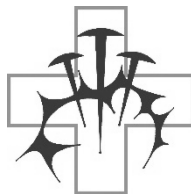
P Holy and gracious Lord, the earth was made to be filled with Your glory. Despite Your love and care, we have not lived lives worthy of being called Your people.

Pause for silent reflection

P Forgive our sins and shortcomings. Overcome our inability and inaction. Replace our selfish and faithless nature with hearts that glorify You.

C **O Lord, be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.**

P Having accomplished the work given Him to do, Jesus Christ has paid for all of your sins, has risen for your justification, and has claimed His seat at the Father's right hand to intercede on your behalf. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Psalm 68:1-10

P God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;
C **and those who hate him shall flee before him!**

P As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;
C **as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!**

P But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God;

C **they shall be jubilant with joy!**

P Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

C **lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!**

P Father of the fatherless and protector of widows

C **is God in his holy habitation.**

P God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,

C **but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

P O God, when you went out before your people,

C **when you marched through the wilderness,**

P the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai,

C **before God, the God of Israel.**

P Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad;

C **you restored your inheritance as it languished;**

P your flock found a dwelling in it;

C **in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**
Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #477

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 1:12-26

“Trusting in the Lord’s guidance, the apostles select faithful Matthias to complete the Twelve.”

L The First Reading for the Seventh Sunday of Easter is from Acts, chapter one.

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“‘Let another take his office.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem *10:30am service*

“Perfect Love”

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

“Peter prepares believers for suffering and points them to the God who cares for them.”

L The Epistle Reading is from First Peter, chapters four and five.

^{4:12} Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 14:18

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 17:1-11

“Christ prays for the unity and safety of those who believe.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Message for Children from God’s Word

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #540

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven. And sits at the right hand of the Father.

And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Rite of Confirmation *10:30am service*

LSB p. 272

Bradley Mutter - *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1*

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers conclude:

P Heavenly Father, as the first Christians devoted themselves to prayer and worship following Christ’s glorious ascension, preserve us in the same until we are raised with all the saints to Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Offering

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

– John 17:3

We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord’s Word this morning.



Offertory *“What Shall I Render” / Psalm 116*

LSB p. 159-160

Service of the Sacrament

***The Lord’s Supper** is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.*

*Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.***

Preface *Sung*

LSB p. 160

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* LSB p. 161

Lord’s Prayer *Spoken* LSB p. 162

The Words of our Lord *Spoken* LSB p. 162

Pax Domini *“The Peace of Our Lord”* LSB p. 163

Agnus Dei *“Lamb of God”* LSB p. 163

Distribution Hymns

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” LSB # 655

“Children of the Heavenly Father” LSB # 725

“To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” LSB # 768

Thank the Lord LSB p. 164

The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. We thank You, Father, for blessing us with the gift of Your grace as it comes to us through the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Strengthen us in living our baptismal faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Announcements *8:00am service*

Closing Hymn *Lutheran Service Book #457
“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”*

