

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 10th Street ~ DeWitt, Iowa 52742 - Church: 563-659-9153 ~ www.gracedewitt.org

+ The Order of Service +

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS! We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning; please take a moment to sign one of our attendance cards. The people around you, and Pastor, look forward to meeting you! Please come and worship with us again.

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 4, beginning on page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book.

Pre-Service Video

Choir Anthem

“The Prayer”

The Words of Welcome by Pastor Eric Obermann

The Opening Song

“Come, Just As You Are”

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.

Come just as you are.

Come and see (Come and see)

Come, receive (Come receive)

Come and live (Come and live) forever.

Life everlasting, and strength for today;

Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.

Come just as you are.

Come, receive (Come receive)

Christ, the King (Christ, the King)

Come and live (Come and live) forever.

Life everlasting, and strength for today;

Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.

Come just as you are.

Come and see

Come, receive

Come and live forevermore.

Confession and Absolution

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C Who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

P A little while, and you will see me no longer;

C And again a little while, and you will see me.

P I will extol you, my God and King,

C And bless your name forever and ever.

P Every day I will bless you

C And praise your name forever and ever.

P The LORD is gracious and merciful,

C Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,

C And all your saints shall bless you!

P My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,

C And let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

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.

P A little while, and you will see me no longer;

C And again a little while, and you will see me.

Song of Praise

“Famous One”

You are the Lord

The famous One famous One

Great is Your name in all the earth

The heavens declare You're glorious glorious

Great is Your fame beyond the earth

And for all You've done and yet to do

With ev'ry breath I'm Praising You

Desire of nations and ev'ry heart

You alone are God

You alone are God

You are the Lord

The famous One famous One

Great is Your name in all the earth

The heavens declare You're glorious glorious

Great is Your fame beyond the earth

The Morning Star is shining through

And ev'ry eye is watching You

Revealed by nature and miracles

You are beautiful

You are beautiful

You are the Lord

The famous One famous One

Great is Your name in all the earth
The heavens declare You're glorious glorious
Great is Your fame beyond the earth
Great is Your fame beyond the earth

"Famous One – © 2002 worshiptgether.com songs /sixsteps Music - CCLI Song #3599431

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and 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. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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. In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the

Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So 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. By 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. If 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. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the

vinedresser.

Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. If 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the

communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Message

Song of the Day

“How Great Is Our God”

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

“How Great is Our God” – © 2004 worshiptogether.com songs / sixsteps Music / Alletrop Music

Sermon

“Peace & Resiliency”

Offering & Song during Offering

“Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.

Allelu, Alleluia.
Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.

"Seek Ye First" – © 1972 Maranatha! Music

Prayer of the Church

Each petition concludes

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

The Closing Song

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

"Cornerstone"

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm,
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm,
He is Lord, Lord of all
He is Lord, Lord of all

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm,
He is Lord, Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm,
He is Lord, Lord of all

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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