

# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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+ The Order of Service +

## Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

8:00 a.m.

**WELCOME GUESTS!** We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again.

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 1, beginning on page 151 in the Lutheran Service Book.

The Preservice Music

A Time for Meditation

The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

The Ringing of the Bell

### Blessing of a Cross

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord, St. Paul speaks of the importance of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, saying, "When I came to you, brothers, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." By His death on the cross our Lord won salvation for us.

It is fitting that this cross be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer for our devotion and as a proclamation of His atoning work for us.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** Who made heaven and earth.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P**Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our eyes may ever behold our Savior and His cross, that we may not fear the power of any adversaries but rather rejoice in His victory for us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**Amen.

**P**The Lord Almighty, the Father, the  $\text{\textt{T}}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this cross.

**C**Amen.

**The Opening Hymn              #597 “*Water, Blood and Spirit Crying*”**

- 1 Water, blood, and Spirit crying,  
By their witness testifying  
To the One whose death-defying  
Life has come, with life for all.
- 2 In a wat’ry grave are buried  
All our sins that Jesus carried;  
Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried  
Us across death’s raging flood.
- 3 Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us,  
Past the scowl of death He leads us;  
Spreads a table where He feeds us  
With His body and His blood.
- 4 Though around us death is seething,  
God, His two-edged sword unsheathing,  
By His Spirit life is breathing  
Through the living, active Word.

5 Spirit, water, blood entreating,  
Working faith and its completing  
In the One whose death-defeating  
Life has come, with life for all.

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## Confession and Absolution

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Ps. 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3*

**P** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation

**C** If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

**C** Make known his deeds among the peoples!

**P** Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**C** Tell of all his wondrous works!

**P** Glory in his holy name;

**C** Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

**P** Seek the LORD and his strength;

**C** Seek his presence continually!

**P** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**C** His miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

**P** He remembers his covenant forever,

**C** The word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**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** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it  
you may grow up to salvation

**C** If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

### Kyrie

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the  
Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

Hymn of Praise - ♪♪♪

*“Gloria In Excelsis”*

**C** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for  
Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive  
our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy  
Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **First Reading**

*Acts 4:32-35*

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

The Choir Anthem

"Celebrate Jesus"

## Gradual

- P** Christ has risen from the dead.  
**C** God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,  
**P** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
**C** He has put all things under his feet.

## Epistle

*1 John 1:1-2:2*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make

him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### 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. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

### Confession

**P** What is Confession?

**C** Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

**P** What sins should we confess?

**C** Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

**P** Which are these?

**C** Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or

**quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?**

**P** *What is the Office of the Keys?*

**C** **The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.**

**P** *Where is this written?*

**C** **This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”**

(John 20:22–23)

**P** *What do you believe according to these words?*

**C** **I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.**

**Holy Gospel**

*John 20:19-31*

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his

side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P**This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## The Children's Message

### The Hymn #470 v1-3, 6, 8-9 “O Sons and Daughters of the King”

- 1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'ly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia!
- 2 That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way  
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia!
- 3 An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sits and speaks unto the three,  
“Your Lord will go to Galilee.”  
Alleluia!
- 6 “My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be.”  
Alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia!

# Sermon

# “This Slays Me”

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

**C** 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  $\ddagger$  everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

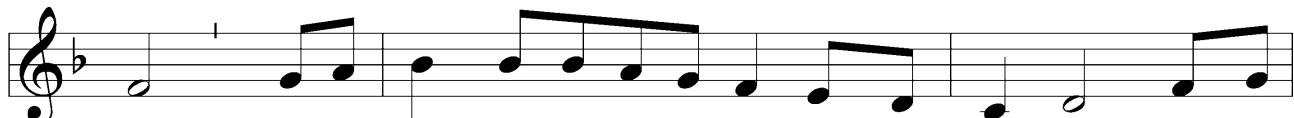
## Offering

*Stand*

## Offertory



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-

va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

### Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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. or Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.  
 Amen.

### Benediction

- 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  $\ddagger$  give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

### The Closing Hymn

#913 “*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*”

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,  
And in our hearts Your work begin,  
    Your dwelling place now make us.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
Around and in us brightly shine,  
    To joy and gladness wake us  
        That we may be  
Truly living,  
To You giving  
    Prayer unceasing  
And in love be still increasing.
- 2 Give to Your Word impressive pow'r,  
That in our hearts from this good hour  
    As fire it may be glowing,  
That in true Christian unity  
We faithful witnesses may be,  
    Your glory ever showing.  
        Hear us, cheer us  
By Your teaching;  
Let our preaching  
    And our labor  
Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.
- 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,  
Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,  
    In us be strongly burning  
That we be faithful unto death  
And live in love and holy faith,  
    From You true wisdom learning.  
        Your grace and peace  
On us shower;  
By Your power  
    Christ confessing,  
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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