

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7, 2023 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Thornville, Ohio

### VISITORS

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

### OUR WORSHIP

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Lutherans believe that the Gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners by his death and resurrection, but also the power by which God creates and strengthens faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the Gospel as the central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In preaching and Holy Communion, in specially selected Bible readings and songs, prayers and confessions, the liturgy points us to Jesus as our gracious Savior.

### PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

### PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW Setting 2

*Watchword: Oh sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things! - Psalm 98:1 ESV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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## Confession and Absolution

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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*The people please stand.*

P: This is the day the Lord has made!

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

P: Christ is risen.

**C: He is risen indeed.**

P: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION

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P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

## ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



# Gathering

## ENTRANCE HYMN *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Green Book 294

Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

## THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices



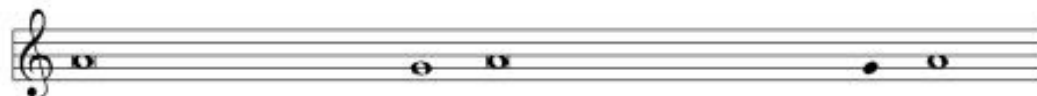
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



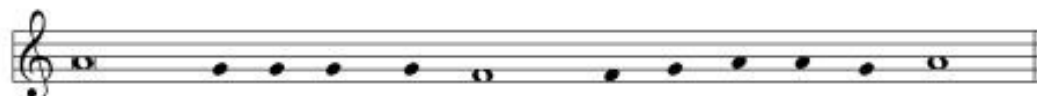
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



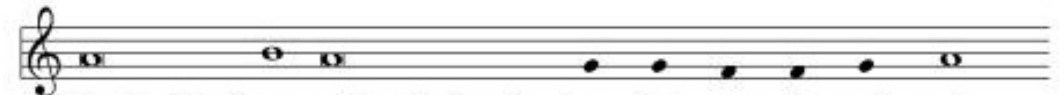
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C A - men

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A=Leader; C=all voices



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

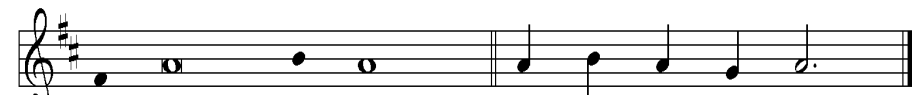


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al-so with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Acts 7:55-60*

L: A reading from Acts.

*Stephen bears witness to Jesus Christ and suffers death. Even in his death, he sees Jesus, who is his hope and ours.*

<sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

<sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### PSALMODY

*Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*

*The verses are chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*



<sup>1</sup>In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\* deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>Incline your | ear to me;\* make haste to de- | liver me.

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;\* for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,\* for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,\* for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand;\* rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Make your face to shine up- | on your servant,\* and in your loving- | kindness save me.”

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:2-10

L: A reading from 1 Peter.

*There is a stone which is solid and true. All we build takes shape from this stone. The cornerstone is Christ.*

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the

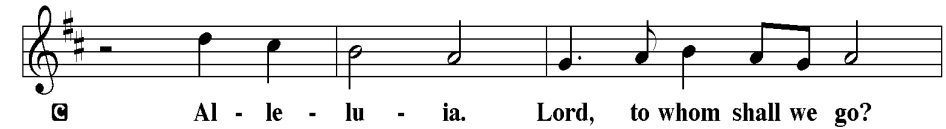
excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

## THE VERSE

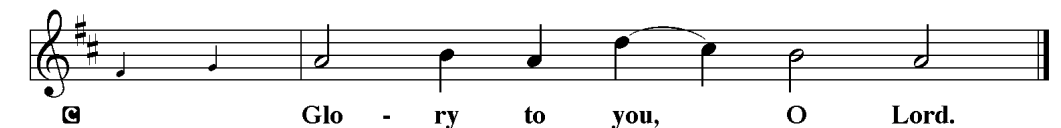
*The people please stand.*



## THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

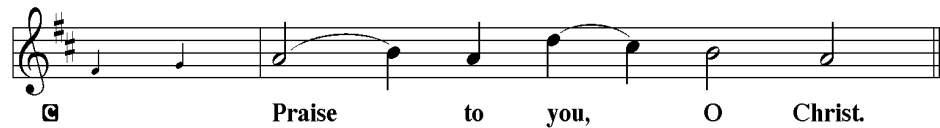
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought*    Green Book 501

*The people stand.*

## THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition:*

*A: Lord, in your mercy,    C: hear our prayer.*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



## *The Liturgy of Holy Communion*

## THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

## OFFERING

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Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

Special Music: "My Tribute" Tom Rodgers - "For over 35 years, we vacationed at Myrtle Beach. We always went to a show "Carolina Opry". One of the lead singers was Rita Gumm. Whenever she finished a song and got a thunderous applause, she would raise her hands to the sky and exclaim "To God Be The Glory". She was truly an inspiration as a believer."

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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The people stand.

**☐** 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 dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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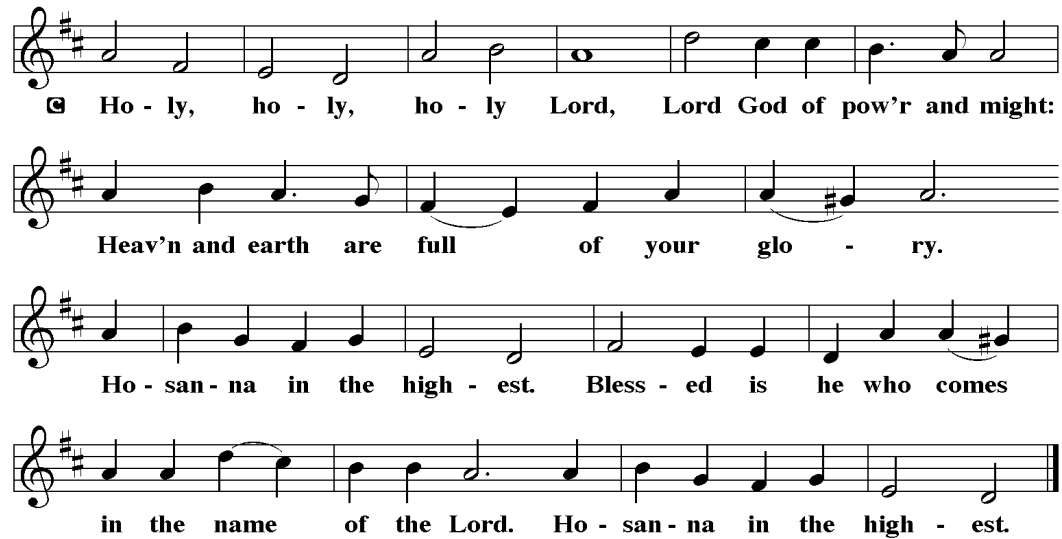
**☐** The Lord be with you. **☑** And al - so with you.  
**☐** Lift up your hearts. **☑** We lift them to the Lord.  
**☐** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**☑** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE

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P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE 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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

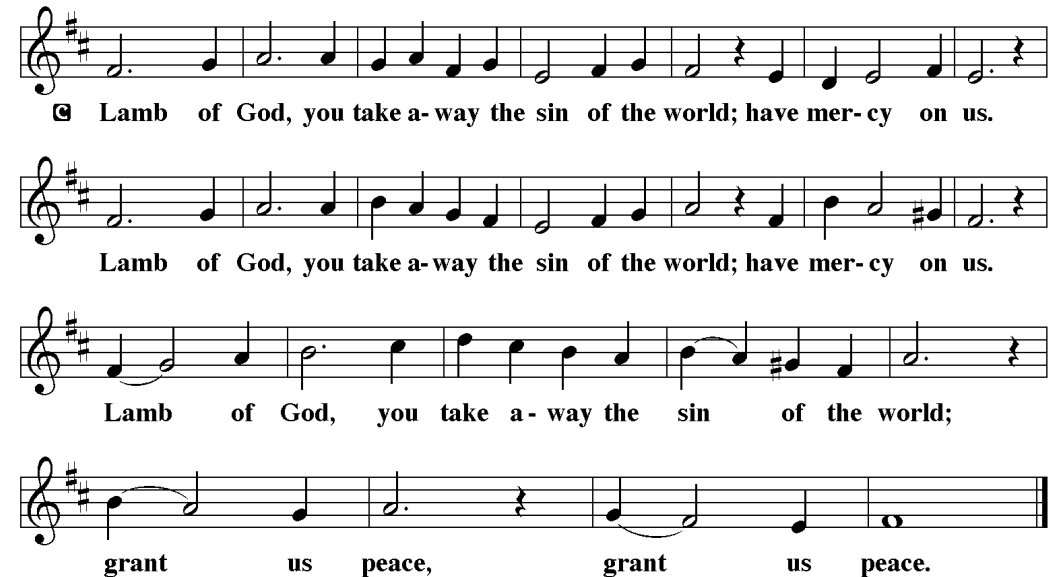
## THE FRACTION

P: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

**C: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*The people may be seated.*

## 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, grant us peace.



## DISTRIBUTION

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Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Ushers will dismiss rows to form two lines down the center aisle. Receive bread from the pastor and proceed to the wine station nearest you. After you have received the bread, an usher will provide each person with an individual cup that will then be filled with wine by the assisting minister. Only individual cups with grape juice will be filled before hand. Coming forward to receive only the bread is perfectly acceptable. Those choosing not to receive communion can come forward for a blessing signaled by having your arms crossed over your chest. When you have communed, you may return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

*Hymns during distribution: Green Book 197, 212, 217*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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*The people please stand.*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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**A:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.



# Sending

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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☩ 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.



A: Go in peace. Christ is risen!

C: Thanks be to God!

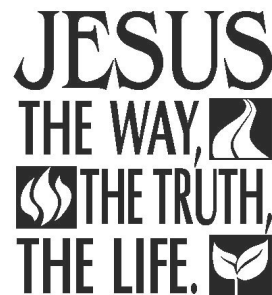
**SENDING HYMN**    *Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*    Green Book 259

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## THE POSTLUDE

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*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*



### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.gracethornville.org  
The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



## COMMEMORATIONS:

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- May 9    Job, patriarch (Commemoration)
- May 11    Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 6 EASTER (MAY 14)

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Acts 17:22-31  
1 Peter 3:13-22

Psalms 66:8-18  
John 14:15-21