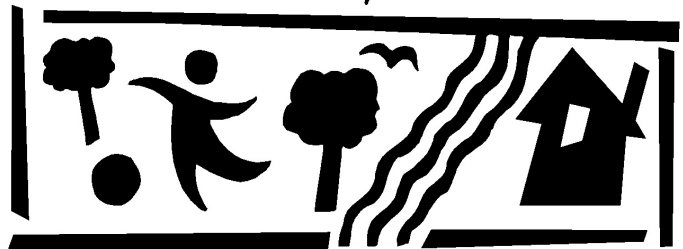


**See what love the  
Father has given us,  
that we should be  
called children of God.**

**1 John 3:1, NRSV**



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 14, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Thornville, Ohio

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### **VISITORS**

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're glad you are here.

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### **OUR WORSHIP**

Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. In turn, we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

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### **PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

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!

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### **PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION**

*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: See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. – 1 John 3:1 NRSV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME | 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*



# Gathering

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*Thine Is the Glory*

Green Book 145

*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.



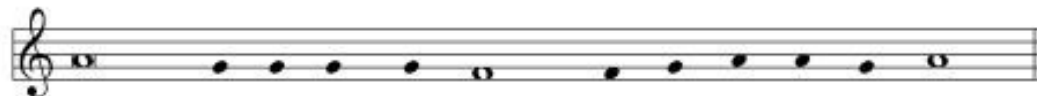
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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-tory 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.

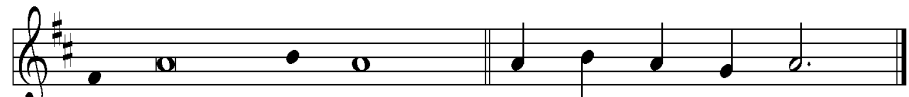


This is the feast of vic-tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; 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 3:12-19*

L: A reading from Acts.

*In his sermon, Peter connects Jesus' death and resurrection to the whole history of Israel. Jesus is the Christ promised by the prophets.*

<sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. <sup>17</sup>"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

Psalm 4

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



<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;\* you set me free when  
I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>“**You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;\* how long will  
you worship dumb idols and run af- | ter false gods?”**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord does wonders | for the faithful;\* when I call upon  
the Lord, | he will hear me.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and | do not sin;\* speak to your heart in silence  
up- | on your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed | sacrifices,\* and put your trust | in the Lord.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see | better times!”\* Lift up the light  
of your countenance upon | us, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness | in my heart,\* more than when grain and wine  
and | oil increase.

<sup>8</sup>**I lie down in peace; at once I | fall asleep;\* for only you, Lord,  
make me | dwell in safety.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:1-7

L: A reading from 1 John.

*Jesus has made us beloved, and we are God's children. We have glorious future and  
are called to righteousness while we live.*

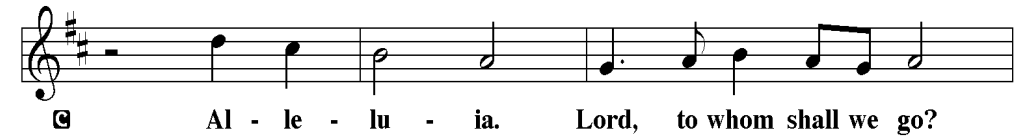
<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called  
children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we

will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be  
like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes  
in him purifies himself as he is pure. <sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of  
sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he  
appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who  
abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen  
him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices  
righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

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

## THE VERSE

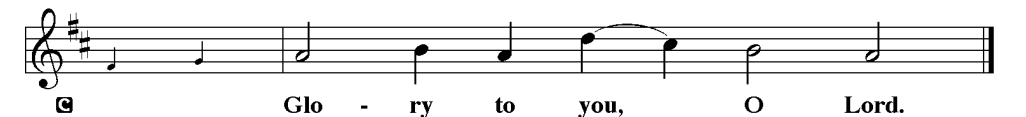
The people stand.



## THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:36b-48

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

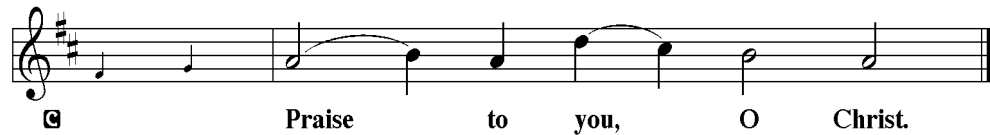


<sup>36b</sup> Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup> But  
they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And he said  
to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?  
<sup>39</sup>See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a

spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



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## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*The people may be seated.*

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## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

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## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Awake, My Heart, With Gladness*

Green Book 129

*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.**

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## 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

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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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 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

---

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

---

☞ 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

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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

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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

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☩ 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

*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.*

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Green Book 448, 224, 225*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*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

☐ 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

**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 - men

A: Go in peace. Christ is risen!

C: Thanks be to God!

**SENDING HYMN**    *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*                      Green Book 135

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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.*

### PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

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*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.*

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

65 E. Columbus St.  
Thornville, OH 43076  
(740) 246-6576  
office@gracethornville.org  
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:

- April 19 Olavus Petri, priest, 1552; Laurentius Petri, Archbishop of Uppsala, 1573; renewers of the Church
- April 21 Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 4 EASTER (APRIL 21)

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|----------------|---------------|
| Acts 4:5-12    | Psalm 23      |
| 1 John 3:16-24 | John 10:11-18 |