

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
April 19, 2026 – The Third Sunday of Easter  
*8:30 Bulletin*

**LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED**

The season after Easter Day until Pentecost is called the **Easter Season** or **Eastertide** and lasts 50 days. The central theme of Eastertide is the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life, hope, and redemption. This is the most joyful season in the Christian calendar, the mood is bright and triumphant. The scripture readings focus on the appearances of the risen Christ and the beginnings of the Christian community with the missionary work of the apostles. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing joy and purity.



# OPENING HYMN: How Firm A Foundation

Please stand as you are able



1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
2. "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!  
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
4. "When through fier-y trials thy path-way shall lie,  
5. "The soul that to Je-sus hath fled for re- pose,



is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent word!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
the riv-ers of woe shall not thee o-ver-flow;  
my grace, all suf-fi-cient, shall be thy sup-ply;  
I will not, I will not de-sert to its foes;



What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
I'll strength-en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
for I will be with thee, thy trou-bles to bless,  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on-ly de-sign  
that soul, though all hell shall en-deav-or to shake,



to you that for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?  
up-held by my right-eous, om-ni-potent hand.  
and sanc-ti-fy to thee thy deep-est dis-tress.  
thy dross to con-sume, and thy gold to re-fine.  
I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake."

**ACCLAMATION** *BCP p. 355*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant continues:*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

**GLORIA** *BCP p. 356*

**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.****

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Karen Davenport** † Next Sunday: **Cheryle Kahl***

**FIRST READING** Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Please be seated*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17**

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the \**

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,\*

**because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.**

<sup>2</sup>The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me;\*

**I came to grief and sorrow.**

<sup>3</sup>Then I called upon the Name of the Lord:\*

**"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."**

<sup>10</sup>How shall I repay the Lord\*

**for all the good things he has done for me?**

- <sup>11</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation\*  
**and call upon the Name of the Lord.**
- <sup>12</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord\*  
**in the presence of all his people.**
- <sup>13</sup>Precious in the sight of the Lord\*  
**is the death of his servants.**
- <sup>14</sup>O Lord, I am your servant;\*  
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.**
- <sup>15</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving\*  
**and call upon the Name of the Lord.**
- <sup>16</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord\*  
**in the presence of all his people,**
- <sup>17</sup>In the courts of the Lord's house,\*  
**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING** 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of

perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** Luke 24:13-35

*Please stand as you are able*

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Please be seated*

**NICENE CREED** *BCP p. 358*

*Please stand as you are able*

**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.**



## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

*The Leader and people pray responsively:*

Christ is risen—alleluia! In the confidence of the Resurrection, we now pray in our Savior's name for all of God's people throughout the world, saying: Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with courage and grace. Awake, O Church, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your love. Awake, O World, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that each person might share with and honor the other. Awake, O People, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change for the poor of the earth, O God, for the victims of warfare and natural disasters, and for refugees around the world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela. Awake, O Downcast, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our community, O God, as we pray for the children in our lives and in our world. Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good. Awake, O Family, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

That they might know your saving help. Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness. Awake, O Saints, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Awake, O Soul, rise from death,

**And Christ will give you life!**

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy!

**Alleluia, amen!**

## **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **AMEN.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand as you are able*

*Celebrant* May God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to our God.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant continues:*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so, as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all; your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations; you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign, and to give himself for us. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

For it is through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant:*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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, for ever and ever. AMEN.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**



## COMMUNION

*Please be seated*

*Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone*

*Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

May the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, this day and forever more. **AMEN.**

## **CLOSING HYMN: Christ Is Alive!**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and



1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion



1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

## **DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* My friends, our worship has now ended. Let us go forth in peace to show the world by our actions and our words the saving power of the risen Jesus! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*People* **We will, with God's help! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### **The Prayers of this Congregation**

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Basse; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Jerry Gardner; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober.

*Do you know someone who can use our prayers?*

*Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.*

## **CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please send all bulletin submissions to  
[bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org](mailto:bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org)*

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

### **CHOIR**

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

### **GARDENS OF GRACE**

Spring's arrival means it's time to give some TLC to our church gardens. Please see the *Amazing Grace* newsletter (available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates and ways you can help out.

### **MUSICAL BINGO**

Get ready for a fun night at church **this Saturday, April 25!** Doors open at **6 PM** and the fun begins at **7**. \$20 per person includes one bingo card and a Sloppy Joe dinner, with additional

cards available for purchase. There'll be basket and 50/50 raffles, too. Contact Margaret Morgan at 313-657-9313 or Kristi Carpenter at 586-663-6246 to reserve a space or if you're interested in volunteering.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, May 14**, at Grace Church. At the last meeting we couldn't decide which book was next, so we ended up choosing two books! They are: *Hold Strong* by Robert Dugoni and *twice* by Mitch Albom. We hope to see you at the next meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Ann Strevel.

## **ALC EVENTS**

Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the hallway for more info on upcoming and ongoing events at American Lutheran. There's a lot to choose from!

### **For the Seafarers Stuck in the Persian Gulf**

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God of **safe passage**, whose Son calmed the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee and protected his seafaring disciples, **we pray for the merchant seamen** who are stuck in the Persian Gulf amid heightened conflict and instability in the region. They are vulnerable, O God, and **we pray that you would protect them**, comfort them, and make a way for them to arrive swiftly on safe shores. **We pray also for their families** who long to be reunited. Pour out your lifegiving Spirit on them as they are uncertain and afraid. **Grant hope where it cannot be found**, wipe tears where they flow, and calm bodies that shake in fear and distress. **Grant this world peace**, for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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