

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

April 26, 2026 – The Fourth 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: If You Believe And I Believe

*Please stand as you are able*

If you be - lieve and I be - lieve And we to - geth - er  
pray, The Ho - ly Spir - it must come down And  
set God's peo - ple free, And set God's peo - ple  
free, And set God's peo - ple free; The  
Ho - ly Spir - it must come down And set God's peo - ple free.

## 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: **Cheryle Kahl** † Next Sunday: **Karen Davenport***

**FIRST READING** Acts 2:42-47

*Please be seated*

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23**

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

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;\*

**I shall not be in want.**

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures\*

**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul\*

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;\*

**for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who  
trouble me;\*

**you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.**

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life,\*

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** John 10:1-10

*Please stand as you are able*

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for

him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

*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

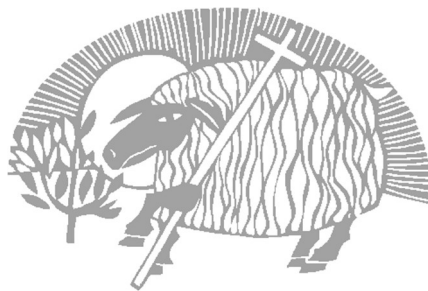
*Please stand as you are able*

*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. And may the blessing of God Almighty—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

## CLOSING HYMN: Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sa - vior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need thy  
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us  
ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;  
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,  
for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!  
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!  
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

## 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; Bonaio, 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; 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; Tish Mastro-Burns; Jane Kaminski.

*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. If all goes according to plan, we should already have mulch down this weekend with the help of the Boy Scouts. Please see the *Amazing Grace* newsletter

(available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates and ways you can help out.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, May 14** at **6 PM** 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 Education in the Age of AI

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God of wisdom, who grants us reason and discernment as we make crucial decisions, **we pray for students** and educators **in the age of AI**. We pray especially for all who are **entrusted with the holy work** of caring for the intellectual development of our young people amid rapid technological change. **Grant our lawmakers** and school administrators **wisdom** to put appropriate guardrails on AI in the classroom **as we assess the risks** and potential impacts this technology will have on learning environments. O God, **your Son taught us to consider the lilies** of the field, and **you show us the beauty of this world** in the ordinary. **Grant that students** with easy access to AI may still **learn from the world around them**, growing in wisdom through attention, patience, and lived experience. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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