

Grace Lutheran Church – 4.18.21

Our Mission: "Grace Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community called to gather, grow, and give together in Grace."

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of salvation.

P: Most Merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive 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.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \dagger Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

GREETING

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P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. God of hope, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our hearts and our minds the life we share with Christ, and help us to grow into the fullness of your love. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Reader: The Holy Gospel According to Luke

Congregation: The Gospel of the Lord

Reader: The Holy Gospel According to Luke

Acts 6:8—7:2a, 44-60

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this

place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.”¹⁵ And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

7 Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?”² And Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,⁴⁴ “Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen.⁴⁵ Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David,⁴⁶ who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob.⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for him.⁴⁸ Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says,⁴⁹ “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?⁵⁰ Did not my hand make all these things?’

⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers.⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen.⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a

loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Sermon – Pastor Andy Tyrrell

Hymn of the Day

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Lord in Your Mercy.

C: Hear our Prayer.

The Offering – If you are able to continue to support the church financially during this difficult time, we would be grateful. Options for electronic giving are on our website (gracelutheran1.org). If you need help using the online giving tools please contact Pastor Andy (pastor@gracelutheran1.org). Another option is to mail your offering directly to the church.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Risen One,

as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Inspire us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry

and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome
table. Alleluia! Come to the feast.**

Prayer After Communion

**P: Let us pray. Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and
nourished us with the body of Christ. Risen to new life with you, send
us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name
of our risen Savior and Lord.**

C: Amen.

Blessing

**P: Now may God live in you, name you his child, and shine brightly on
your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the  Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.**

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

**P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share
the good news. Alleluia!**

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*catholic means universal/all Christians