

# Fourth Sunday of Easter Apríl 30, 2023

745 S. Ingraham Avenue Lakeland, FL 33801 Ministers: Pastor: 863-686-5585 gracelakeland.com The People of Grace Lutheran Church Rev. Pamela Smith

## Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Easter

We rejoice that Easter is not merely one Sunday but instead extends for 50 days. We call this season "The Great Fifty Days!" The joy of our worship last Sunday in the Festival of the Resurrection last Sunday continues today. Our worship is the foundation of our life together through which we are nurtured in the faith, grow as disciples of Jesus and offer ourselves in service to others in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

We hope that you will find much in our worship and fellowship that captures your interest and wonder -- perhaps the beauty of the stained glass images or the handcrafted cross behind the altar, the music of the band will touch a special chord for you. You may want to visit our Memorial Garden to enjoy God's good creation in the beauty of the native plants as well as the gurgling of the fountain surrounded by the remembrance of many on whose shoulders we stand. After services, we invite you to join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall where we can visit with one another.

Whether you are a regular worshiper with us, a seasonal resident, or a visitor, we welcome you because God's grace extends to all.

May God bless our time together!

Pastor Pan+

# Some Practical Things:

- **Children:** All children, even those who chat or cry or squawk, are welcome here. Some may enjoy one of the children's activity bags that an usher can provide.
- **Restrooms** are located outside of the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.
- Holy Communion: We celebrate this Sacrament every Sunday. All baptized Christians are welcome at this, the Lord's Table. You will find more information in this worship folder. Our ushers will help guide you.
- Offerings: Those who desire to give an offering can do so using the envelopes in the pew, the "Give" button on our webpage or the Tithe.ly app. We are happy to provide assistance with any of these if that would be helpful to you. Thank you for your generosity.

## + GATHERING +

#### PRELUDE

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

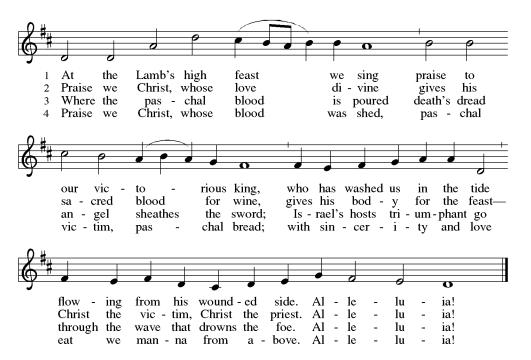
Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN** 

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (vs. 1,2,6 and 7)
(Next page)

**ELW 362** 

# At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



- 5 Mighty victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie; you have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt. Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566

#### GREETING

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

## Now the Feast and Celebration



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## 中 WORD 中

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

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

<sup>42</sup>The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 23** (Sung – Next page)

# The Lord's My Shepherd



Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984 Arr. © Oxford University Press.

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

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

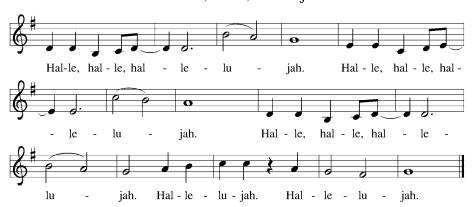
<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

# Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

## GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.** 

**SERMON** 

**HYMN** 

Children of the Heavenly Father (Next page)

ELW 781



# Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan ingen vara



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune Text © 1925 Board of Publication. Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

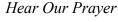
## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creater 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 to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.





## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way particularly: *Sara, Arlene, Sherry, Mabel, Mike, Anna Mae, Kaden, Julie, Carole, Carol G., Anne, Lydia, Paul, Wil, Betty, Scott, Ron, Flo, Terry, Doris, Dottie, Theresa, Marian, Ian, Tim, Betty, Julie, Henry, Mary, Greg, and Max.* Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.** 

## **EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

Peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.** 

# 中 MEAL 中

## **OFFERING**

You may place your offerings in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Alternatively, some are using the Tithe.ly app for online giving or are using their bank's online banking option. Whichever way you choose to give, we are grateful for your stewardship and generosity.

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

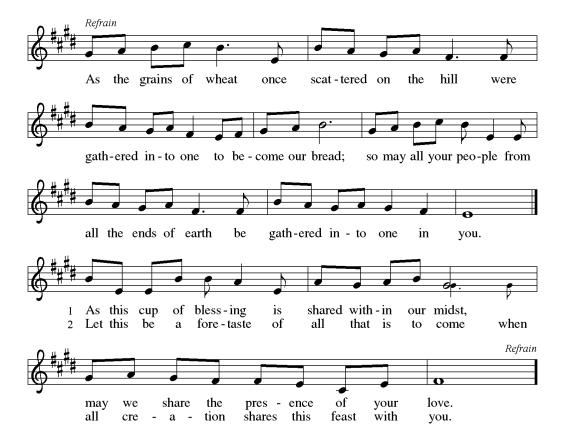
**OFFERING SONG** 

As the Grains of Wheat (Next page)

**ELW 465** 



# As the Grains of Wheat



Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

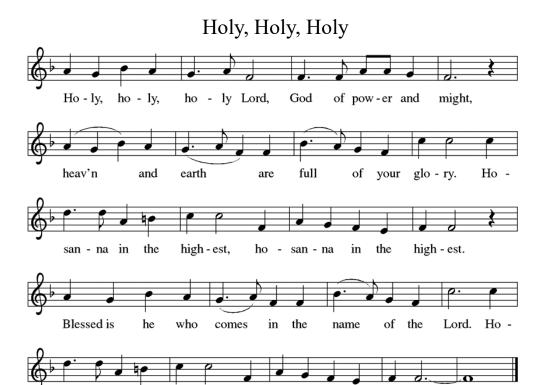
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



ho - san - na

in the

high-est.

Music: A Community Mass, Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

high - est,

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

san - na in the

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

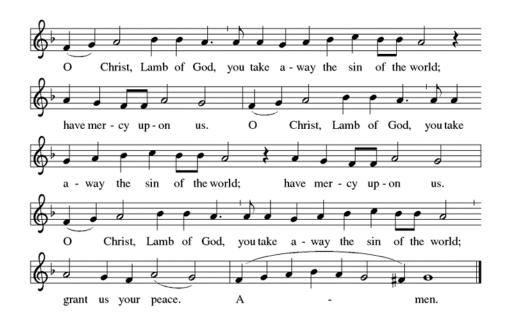
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## LORD'S PRAYER

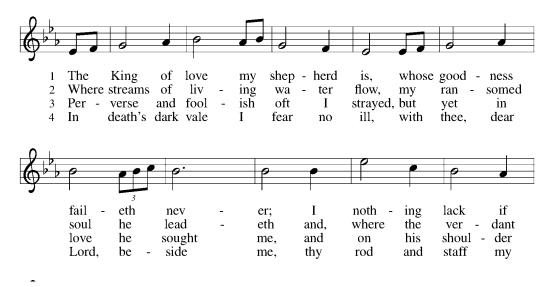
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

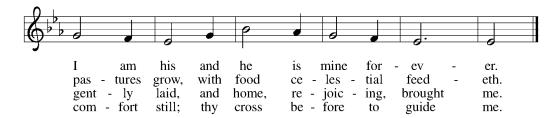
#### DISTRIBUTION

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the head of the aisle where we receive the host. Then to either side of the pastor is first, a chalice for intinction and second, a common cup for drinking. Please indicate to Pastor if you prefer grape juice as a chalice for intinction is available as well. Gluten free bread is available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.



# HYMN DURING COMMUNION The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW 502





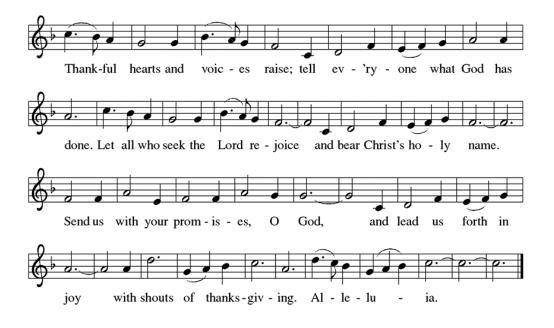
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: St. Columba, Irish tune

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **HYMN AFTER COMMUNION**

# Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

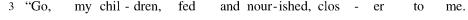
## 中 SENDING 中

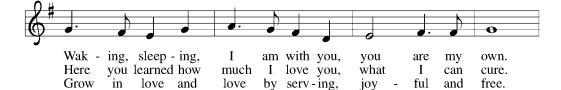
SENDING HYMN

Go My Children With My Blessing

**ELW 543** 









In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er. Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



## BENEDICTION

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

Over recent months we have added video and audio equipment to our sanctuary to livestream our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and also to have them available for later viewing through our website. Likewise, we may use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.

**Liturgical Text and Music from Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, © 2006, 2020, 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS016761. All rights reserved.

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing. Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt. Music: Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566. Public domain.

Now the Feast and Celebration, Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah, Music: Carribean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954. Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274<. All rights reserved.

Children of the Heavenly Father, Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958. Text © 1925 Board of Publication. Lutheran Church in America. Text reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved. Music: Swedish folk tune. Public domain.

**Hear Our Prayer,** Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956. Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

As The Grains of Wheat, Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen, Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

**Holy, Holy, Holy,** Music: A Community Mass, Richard Proulx, b. 1937. Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

O Christ, Lamb of God, Music: J. Bugenhagen, Christliche Ordnung, 1528. Public domain.

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**, Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, Music: Irish tune. Public domain.

**Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise,** Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980, Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Music: Bread of Life, Jeremy Young, b. 1948. Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Arr. © Oxford University Press. Text and music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.