GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Second Sunday of Easter

**Saturday, April 10, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 11, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness,” No. 467

**1 Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
    When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.**

**2 The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
    He who is strong to save Has triumphed o’er the grave.**

**3 This is a sight that gladdens—What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
    The hope which God’s own Son In love for me has won.**

**4 Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow’r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright;
    It is a pow’rless form, Howe’er it rave and storm.**

**5 The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
    Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.**

**6 Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate’er He passes through.
He rends death’s iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
    He shatters hell’s grim thrall; I follow Him through all.**

**7 He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
“Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
    Who there with Me has died Shall here be glorified.”**

INVOCATION

 *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

 **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

 *Alleluia! Christ is risen!*

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:6-10*

 *If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,*

 **we lie and do not practice the truth.**

*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,*

 **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

 *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

 *If we say we have not sinned,*

 **we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

*Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

 **Amen.**

*(Silence for reflection.)*

 *Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

*Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

 **Amen.**

*May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

 **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “This Joyful Eastertide,” No. 482

**1 This joyful Eastertide  Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow: *Refrain***

***Refrain:* Had Christ, who once was slain,
      Not burst His three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain:
     But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
     But now has Christ arisen!**

**2 Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: *Refrain***

**3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: *Refrain***

SALUTATION

 *The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection*

*may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

 **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-25

32Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 148 *(Spoken responsively)*

**1** *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!***2Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

**3***Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!***4Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

**5***Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created.***6And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall**

**not pass away.**

**7***Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,***8fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

**9***Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!***10Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**

**11***Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!***12Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**

**13***Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above*

*earth and heaven.*

**14He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people**

 **of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!**

EPISTLE 1 John 1:1-2:2

 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2**the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3**that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4**And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

 **5**This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6**If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

 2:1My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2**He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

 *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

**Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

 *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.*

 **Glory to You, O Lord.**

 **19**On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” **20**When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. **21**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” **22**And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

 **24**Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

 **26**Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” **28**Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29**Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

 **30**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31**but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

 *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

 **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

 **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

 **I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Heard and Yet Believe”

 John 20:19-31 – Pastor Nate Ruback

SERMON HYMN “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight,” No. 720

**1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e’er spoke, But we believe Him near.**

**2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry “My Lord and God!”**

**3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found.**

**4 For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.**

**5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Merciful Father, at Your bidding we come to You in prayer, trusting in Your mercy to*

*supply us with all that is needful and beneficial to us and for all for whom our prayers have been requested.**Silence the doubts that plague us and deliver us from fear, that believing in You we may know the full comfort of Your gracious presence. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

*Deliver us from pride and humble us by Your Spirit so that, confessing all our sins, we know the peace of a clear conscience and serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

*Make Your Church bold in the confession of Your name before the world and give Your blessing to all pastors and church workers as they accomplish Your bidding in their service to us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

*Guard us from all enemies and bless our nation with good government and good leaders, that we enjoy justice before the law, equality of opportunity in the marketplace, and peace in our communities and between the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

*Restore those absent too long from the Church’s sacramental life and bring to repentance those who have fallen into error and sin, that they may again be one with us at the Table of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

*Give comfort, healing, patience, and strength to the sick, to those suffering a troubled mind, and to those carrying the heavy burden of grief, that they may know Your presence in their hour of need. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

*Remembering Thomas and all the disciples, the saints and the martyrs, and those who taught us the faith and now rest from their labors, bring us with them through the day of trouble into the dawn of peace and the place of everlasting life and light through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,*

**hear our prayer and grant our supplication. 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.**

BENEDICTION

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.*

 **Amen.**

*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.*

 **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

 *Go in peace! Serve the Lord!*

 **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN “When Peace, like a River,” No. 763

**1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
    When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
    It is well, it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

 ***Refrain:* It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
 It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
    Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
    And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain***

**3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
    My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
    Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***

**4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
    The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
    Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

POSTLUDE

*Grace is for all!*