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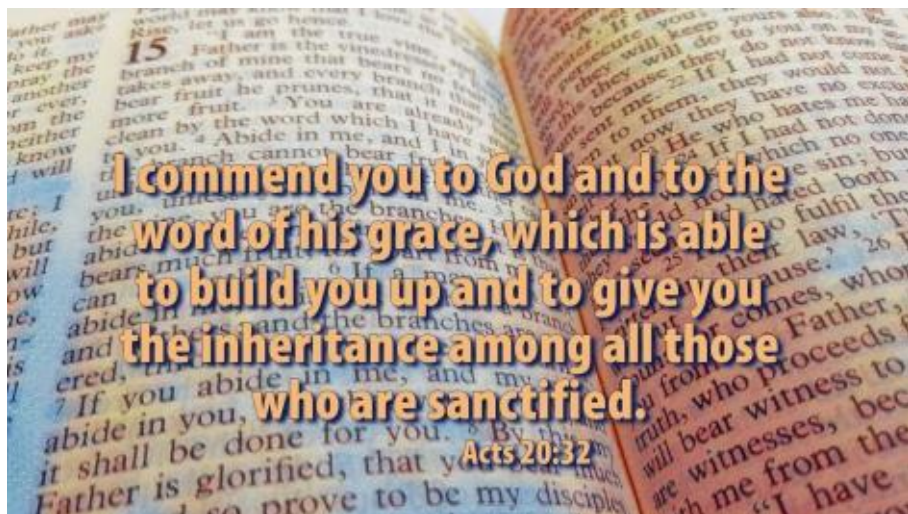
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Fourth Sunday of Easter
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
May 11, 2025
Traditional Service
8:00 am

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025 ~ 8:00 A.M.

Welcome to Our Guests

Welcome to worship, and a special greeting to those who follow in God's footsteps by mothering and comforting others. Happy Mother's Day! We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way.

As We Gather

"Did you hear me?" We have all heard that one before. We have also heard its rejoinder: "Then why didn't you do what I said to do?" Jesus bids us to follow him. We are entrusted to God and to his Word, which build us up in faith. All too often, we ignore God and his Word. The Good Shepherd calls us to the green grass and cool, still water, but we wish for other sustenance. Our "robes" may be whitened in the blood the Lamb offers, but we continue to wear soiled clothing. Eventually, even prodigal sheep hear the Master's voice and turn back to him. It follows them wherever they go: "Did you hear me? Then follow me."

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

** Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles and Christ Candle

Welcome

*Opening Hymn: **"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"** LBW # 551

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence may be kept for personal confession of sin to God.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in his mercy has given his Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. The Lord Jesus Christ by his death and resurrection grants you forgiveness and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Choir Anthem

“All Are Welcome at the Table”

Adult Choir

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Lesson: Acts 20:17-35

ESV pg # 929

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (read responsively)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

ESV pg # 1032

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30

ESV pg # 896

Glory to you, O Lord (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Children's Message

Pastor Bert

Sermon Prayer

P: May the Spirit of the Lord be in my heart and on my lips so that I may sincerely and humbly, courageously and effectively proclaim the Good News.

C: And may the Spirit of the Lord touch our ears that we may listen carefully. Touch our minds that we may understand correctly and touch our hearts that we may respond to that message courageously.

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sermon

Pastor Bert

*Nicene Creed (stand)

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 worshipped 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

*The Prayers of the Church (stand)

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

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

- Cortney Ruth Copeland will be graduating from Jackson Center School and will be attending South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota. Her major is Agricultural Education.
- Reed Anthony Platfoot will be graduating from Jackson Center School will be attending Mount Vernon Nazarene University majoring in Accounting/ Business and playing Basketball.
- Carson Timothy Davis will be graduating from Jackson Center School and will be continuing with the Work Force Training Program.
- Jackson Robert Davis will be graduating from Jackson Center School and will be attending Ohio State University Lima Branch majoring in Engineering Technology.

WOC May Collections are Bibles and New Testament & Any type of crosses to hold or hang on the wall - new and used for NALC Disaster Response Needs. They can be Children's Bibles, Teen Bibles, Spanish Bibles, Large Print Bibles! Feel free to send underlined, and highlighted Bibles, DON'T HESITATE TO WRITE A MESSAGE OF HOPE IN THE FRONT FOR THE RECIPIENTS! Place in vestibule baskets! Any questions please contact Linda Jenkins, Chairperson

Adult Sunday Morning Sunday School at 9:15 The Parables of Jesus – April and May Sundays Jesus' parables are timeless, powerful, and profound. Yet there is a dimension to them that can best be appreciated fully when seen through ancient Middle Eastern eyes. Drawing on remarkable cultural and historical insights from renowned New Testament and Middle East scholar Dr. Kenneth Bailey, this study explores how Jesus' audience would have understood eleven of Jesus' parables as recorded in Luke. See these great stories come to life for you.

Mission Trip for High School Youth and Congregation Members -- Disaster Relief Rebuilding The Luther League high school youth are inviting congregation members to join them for a mission trip to North Carolina to assist in rebuilding homes in Burnsville, NC. This summer June 19-25, 2025. Join the high school youth as you are able, it is not necessary to be there the full time. All skill levels are needed for cleanup, building, meal preparation, devotional and prayer leadership. Please let Lori Wiswell 937-538-7182 or the Pastors know of your interest and to receive more information.

Volunteers Needed on Wednesday, May 28 2:30-3:30 pm or 4-5 pm for packing Kid's Coalition Against Hunger (Packing food for local families in need). GOAL 10,000 food packs. To sign up to volunteer register at <https://kidscoalitionagainsthunger.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event-form/registration-form/106291/tickets> or sign up on the back sanctuary table. We will meet in the Jackson Center Firehall to receive instructions and assembly line pack 10,000 meals. New Horizons and Scally Brothers concert to follow under the tent for Growing Community in Faith Night.