



April 19, 2026 – Third Sunday of Easter

AS WE GATHER

Have you ever felt or been “far off”? In our Acts reading today, Peter has just finished proclaiming the Gospel to those gathered together on Pentecost. Those hearing his message are cut to the heart and want to hear more. Peter tells them, “Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). But who is this promise for? “The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself” (Acts 2:39). Nobody is excluded from this promise. It is for *you*, for your *children*, and for *all who are far off*. Have you ever felt or been “far off”? Have you ever wondered if God’s promise could really be for **you**? This morning, we will talk about how the promises of God are for “all who are far off” – even for you.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 601, “All Who Believe and Are Baptized”*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together, as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,
People: **have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,
People: **have mercy. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest* (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 204).

- All: 1. **To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing – our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**
2. **To You, O sole begotten, the Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry, where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.**
3. **For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, be worshipped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High, in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ... ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

PSALM *Psalms 116:1-14*

Pastor: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.
People: **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

Pastor: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
People: **Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

Pastor: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.
People: **The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

Pastor: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
People: **For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;**

Pastor: I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
People: **I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted";**

Pastor: I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."
People: **What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?**

Pastor: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
People: **I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.**

EPISTLE READING *1 Peter 1:17-25*

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

GOSPEL READING *Luke 24:13-35*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 605, "Father Welcomes"*

SERMON *"The Promise is For You"*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 782, "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession-Article X)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 208)*

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You ... in His body and blood.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 210*)

All: 1. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 623, "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

LSB 655, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 576, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

SONG OF SIMEON (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 211*)

All: 1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2. All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One; for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 923, "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Service adapted from Divine Service Setting 4, LSB 203-212.

Church
News

ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of April 19, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Jeep & Phyllis Meyer
Zion, Prairie City, MO

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Shannon Walker (and family), executive director of the Aurora Chamber, for comfort as they grieve the loss of her daughter.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Blazi & Jamie (Friends of Jaycee & Ty - health and healing from cancer)

Linda Lampe (Harold & Gwen’s daughter-in-law, for upcoming tests)



Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Cody (Cheryl Lile’s son – health and healing)
Ardella (health and healing)
Rebecca (Kathy Holly’s relative – health and healing from cancer)
Glenda (Teri Ediger’s step mother – health and healing)
Tammy Ardrey (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
Opal Bulow (niece of Linda Myers)
Treaasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son to Teri)

McGee family – (health and healing)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer–Wolf)
Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
Janet – (Darlene Lampe’s son–in–law’s mother)
Donnie Munden – (brother–in–law of Cathy Munden)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel’s brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Joe Pennington – (brother–in–law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Baby Vada (Cathy Munden’s great grandchild – health and healing)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden’s cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman’s friend – healing from a broken–hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden’s granddaughter)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel’s sister–In–Law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow’s mother – health & healing)



WEEK

Sunday	April 19th	Happy Half Hour, Bible Study – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service with communion – 10:00 am Outreach Meeting after church
Monday	April 20th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	April 22nd	Bible Study - 6:00 pm
Thursday	April 23rd	Confirmation - 5:30 pm
Friday	April 24th	Pastor’s Day Off
Sunday	April 26th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour Bible-Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service Voters’ Assembly Meeting after service
Monday	April 27th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm



Birthdays: Apr. 24-Joanne Michel; Apr. 26-Noelle Granderson

Anniversaries: None

April

Greeters

19: Bill and Joanne Michel

26: Charlie & Edee Chambers

Ushers

19: Charlie Chambers

26: David Lampe

Transportation Help Needed: One of our shut-ins is in need of transportation help to and from her doctors' appointments. We would like to have a list of people who are willing to help. You would **not** be signing up to be a driver for every appointment. You would only be signing up to be on the list of individuals willing to be contacted, if needed. Please contact Pastor Heitshusen if you are willing to put your name in the list and/or if you have any questions.



Portals of Prayer are now available.

Join us for Bible class on Sundays and Wednesdays. On Sundays, we meet at 9 am in the Sanctuary. We are currently going through the book of Colossians, where we have heard that we have been raised with Christ in our baptism and because of that, we live our lives as baptized children of God. Starting on Wednesday, April 15, we will re-start our Wednesday evening Bible study at 6 pm in the conference room. We are reading through the Gospel of John. We will pick up in chapter 6, where Jesus will feed the 5,000, walk on water, and tell the people that He is the bread of life. Come and join us as we study God's Word together.

The **LWML Spring Social** is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, in Rockville. An invitation is posted in the narthex. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have questions, or would like to attend, please talk with Edith.

Church Phone: Our church phone has recently changed providers. You can still reach the church by calling 417-678-3603. Please note that we receive a high volume of "robo" and spam calls on the church phone. As such, if you need to contact Pastor Heitshusen, it is best to call or text his cell phone number (832-727-3135). If you call the church phone and receive no answer, please leave a voicemail so that we know it is from a legitimate number and can call you back. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Heitshusen.

To Answer Some Questions that have come up: Contributions to Grace can be given to Pastor or in the offering plate in the narthex. Additionally, we have credit card donations available on our web site: <https://GraceLutheranAurora.com/give.php>

Outreach News and Updates

Sunday, April 19th – short meeting after the service.

Thursday, April 16th - we served over 20 people at Project Rise. We will be scheduling another meal in May if you would like to be a part of it.

Saturday, June 6th – Aurora City Wide yard sale - If you have items to donate, please make sure they are priced. The lot will be open for members and to the public.

Saturday, October 3rd – Annual Car and Truck Show. Are you crafty? Grace would like to sell your treasures. We will have a small booth, and we would love to sell a couple of your crafts for the benefit of the church.

Questions? See or call Bernie (Phone 417-838-2022)