



**April 28, 2024 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## **AS WE GATHER**

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**Hymn:** LSB 905 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

## **INVOCATION**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

## **OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

**Pastor:** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**People:** **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

**Pastor:** Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

**People:** **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

**Pastor:** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

**People:** **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

**Pastor:** You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

**People:** **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

**Pastor:** We prepare for our time of confession as we sing the hymn "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won". As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

**HYMN:** LSB 490 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" vs. 1, 3, & 5

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People:** O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

**Pastor:** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** As you believe, so let it be. 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.

### ✠ WORD ✠

**INTROIT** *Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

**Pastor:** A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.

**People:** I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

**Pastor:** Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

**People:** The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Pastor:** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Pastor:** A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.

### KYRIE

**Pastor:** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord and fill us with Your peace.

**People:** Amen.

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

**FIRST READING:** Acts 8:26–40 (*Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.*)

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 150** *antiphon: v. 6*

Pastor: <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary;

People: **praise him in his mighty heavens!**

Pastor: <sup>2</sup>Praise him for his mighty deeds;

People: **praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

Pastor: <sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound;

People: **praise him with lute and harp!**

Pastor: <sup>4</sup>Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
People: **praise him with strings and pipe!**

Pastor: <sup>5</sup>Praise him with sounding cymbals;  
People: **praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

Pastor: <sup>6</sup>Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!  
People: **Praise the LORD!**

**EPISTLE:** 1 John 4:1–21

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.  
People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;  
People: **He has put all things under His feet.**

**VERSE**        *Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

**Pastor:**        Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**People:**        **Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL:** John 15:1–8 (*Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.*)

**Pastor:**        The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**People:**        **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

**Pastor:**        This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**        **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** LSB 830 “Spread the Reign of God the Lord”

## **SERMON**

### **The Second Article**

**Pastor:**        As we celebrate the risen Christ in this season of Easter, let us speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding our Savior, who is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

**People:**        **I believe 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.**

**Pastor:**        What does this mean?

**People:**        **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**      LSB, p. 215

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.  
God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives.  
Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. 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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**    LSB p.192 (sing)

**All:        Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me**

**Cast me not a-way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me**

**Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy Sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spirit. A-men.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**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 837 “Lift High the Cross”

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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Divine Service, Setting One and Divine Service 5 from Lutheran Service Book

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of April 28, 2024**

**Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO**  
**Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597**  
[pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com)

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**Family for the Week:** Emily Ernest & Homebound Families  
Zion, Prairie City MO

**Prayers of Peace and Comfort:**

**Prayers of Thanks:**

**Alice Troyke** – (healing from a fall)

**Prayers for Health and Healing:**

**Complete Prayer List:**

**LC Stalcup** – (Bauer Family member – health & healing from surgery next week)

**Mrs. Chris Atkins** - (friend of Pam Bowling - health and healing from cancer)

**Jim Troyke** – (health and healing from heart issues)

**Sandra Whalen** – (health and healing from back surgery)

**Steve Hilton** – (friend of Harold & Gwen Lampe – health and healing from cancer)

**Ron Hicks** – (friend of Glenda Enlow - health and healing)

**June Winger** – (Sharon Barlow’s mother – health and healing)

**Marty Jones** – (Bobby Jones’ mother - health and healing)

**Debbie Porter** – (friend of Harold & Gwen Lampe – recovery from frostbite)

**Ernest Ramm** – (Cheryl Lile’s uncle – health and healing from stroke)

**Norma Kaiser** – (friend of Gwen & Harold Lampe – health and healing from a stroke)

**Jill Bode** – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health and healing from cancer)

**Rick Bauer** – (Gladys Bauer’s son – health and healing)

**Jackie Clark** – (Micki Gettman’s friend – healing from a broken hip)

**Betty Gordon** – (health and healing)

**Linda Kennell** – (Pastor Kennell's mother – health and healing)  
**Bob & Bev Hess** – (health and healing from a fall)  
**Kathy Brown** – (friend of Kathy Holle - health and healing)  
**Larry Moennig** – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)  
**Pat Michel** – (Bill Michel's Sister-In-Law – health and healing)  
**Gary Gardner** – (health and healing)  
**Pastor Gary Griffin** – (health and healing from cancer)  
**Thomas Williams** – (Ruth Stoddard's friend – health and healing)  
**Larry Swart** – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing)  
**Kooper Tutten** – (Jeeper Meyer's Great-grandson - health and healing)  
**Sheryl Holle** – (Kathy Holle's cousin – health and healing from cancer)  
**Jeff Flatten** – (great nephew of Kathy Holle – health and healing)  
**Steve Doss** – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)  
**Dorothea Dennis** – (health and healing & peace and comfort)  
**Danata Hopkins** – (continued health and healing)  
**Pete Doss** – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)  
**Ellie Armstrong** – (friend of David Lampe – health and healing)  
**Margaret Seburn** - (cousin of Joanne Michel - health and healing)  
**Randy Wallace** – (brother-in-law of Micki Gettman – health and healing)  
**Diana Bauer** – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer - health and healing)  
**Jami Bauer** – (relative of Gladys Bauer - peace and comfort)  
**Vicki Heppard** – (relative of Gladys Bauer - health and healing from cancer)  
**Bob & Barbara Steinberg** - (health and healing)  
**Ruth Stoddard** – (health and healing)

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**THIS WEEK**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am - Happy Half Hour</b> <b>9:30 am - Fellowship</b> <b>10:00 am – Service</b> <b>Voters' Meeting after service</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Braille in Freistatt - 9:00 am &amp; 1:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Pastor in Office</b> <b>Bible Study - 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Pastor in Office</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am - Happy Half Hour</b> <b>9:30 am - Fellowship</b> <b>10:00 am – Service with Communion</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am &amp; 1:00 pm – Braille in Freistatt</b> <b>LWML - 1:30 pm</b>

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**Birthdays:** Joe Lynn-May 3; Diane Heisner-May 4

**Anniversaries:** Stan & Sharon Crandall-May 7

**Portals of Prayer for April - June** are now available. If you need a large print version, please see Pastor.



**New Church Directory:** Grace will be doing a new Church Directory. We would like to have pictures of new members and any current members wishing a new picture. Contact Charlie Chambers to get new photos.

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<b>April</b>		
<b>GREETERS:</b> <b>04/28: Bill &amp; Joanne Michel</b>		<b>USHERS:</b> <b>04/28: David Lampe</b>
<b>May</b>		
<b>GREETERS:</b> 5/05: Glenda Enlow & Edith Chambers 5/12: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer 5/19: Bill & Cathy Munden 5/26: Bob & Rachel Sanford		<b>USHERS:</b> 5/05: Rob Springer 5/12: Don Wolf 5/19: Harold Lampe 5/26: Charlie Chambers

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**Trustees are looking for a volunteer to help with mowing.** If you can help, please contact Don Wolf.

**Thank you Stan Crandall** for the Cross and Empty Tomb which you made for the congregation. The items are displayed on the ramp as you go to the basement.

**Spring Cleaning:**

If you have any extra cloth material and wish to donate it for making quilts and blankets to be given away, please let Don Wolf know.

**Coming in May:**

- (1) **Graduation Recognition:** Please let Charlie Chambers know the details of your graduate. Grace will recognize Graduates in June.
  
- (2) **Grace will be collecting Bibles and religious study material until June 2nd.** If you have any materials, please bring them. We will take the collected materials to a distribution center in June for distribution overseas. If you have any questions, please see Charlie Chambers.

**Coming in June:**

**City-wide Garage Sale:** Save the date – June 1 - on Grace's lot. Spaces are available to anyone who wants to sell. Grace is also having a booth and anyone wanting to contribute articles should see Pam Bowling. Items are being accepted now through May.