

May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter **Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder, Colorado** Rooted in Grace + Reaching out in Christ's Love

Welcome to Grace!

+

In response to Christ's boundless love, members of Grace share that love by inviting all – regardless of ethnicity or race, educational or religious background, economic, physical, mental or social condition, gender identity or sexual orientation – to come and participate in the life of Grace. We are glad you are joining us for this worship service!

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

PARTICIPATING MINISTERS IN THE WORK OF GRACE					
Presiding Minister	Pastor Matthew Weber				
Assisting Minister	Anne Peterson				
Lector	Mikki Matheson				
Pianist & Organist	Boyd Hamilton				
Choir Director	Michael Hoffman				
Lead Singers	Melissa Lubecke, soprano				
	Melody English, alto				
	Simon Daum, tenor				
	Luke North, bass				
Altar Guild	Mikki, Donna, and Susan				
Usher	Tom Lawson				
Financial Counters	Greg Niesen & Nan Schwiesow				
Grounds	David Bartlett				
Digital Worship Coordinators	Greg Niesen				

GATHERING

MUSICAL INVITATION TO WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. *Amen*.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" **ELW 367** 0 Now all the vault of heav'n sounds re E gift 2 ter nal is the he brings, 3 Oh, fill daunt love; Lord, with less us, dor A prais bring ing es now we 0 praise "Christ of still in love that bounds: has a there fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has will things heart bove that set and on a we with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has and umphed! He liv ing!" Sing, choirs of tri is umphed! He is liv ing!" Now still he tri quer through your tri grant grace suf con umph; umphed! Al ia!" Be --le lu the to 0 an - gels, loud clear! peat their song of and Re glo - ry life his pres - ence stills all comes to give and by us for life's day that fi - cient by our lives we tru - ly Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly "Christ has ing!" here: tri umphed! He is liv ing!" "Christ has umphed! He liv strife. tri is ing!" umphed! "Christ has He liv say: tri is God. all the glo ry, nev er end ing! Al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu al - le - lu ia!

ia,

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

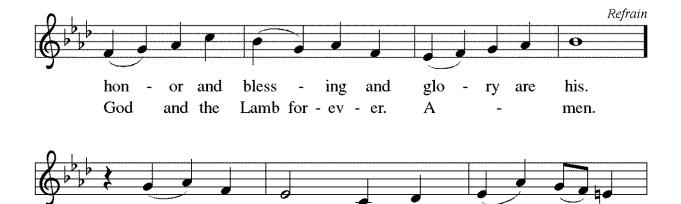
GREETING

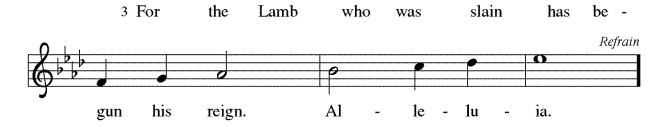
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

O God,

you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

> ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

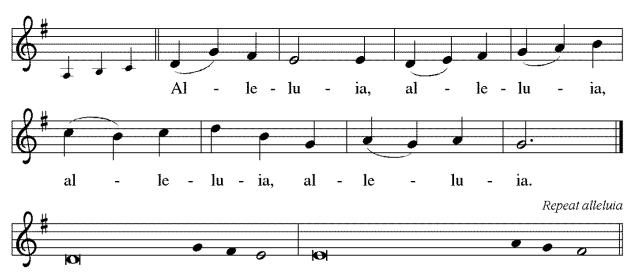
¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus says, this is my co-mandment | love one another as I have loved you.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

The holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

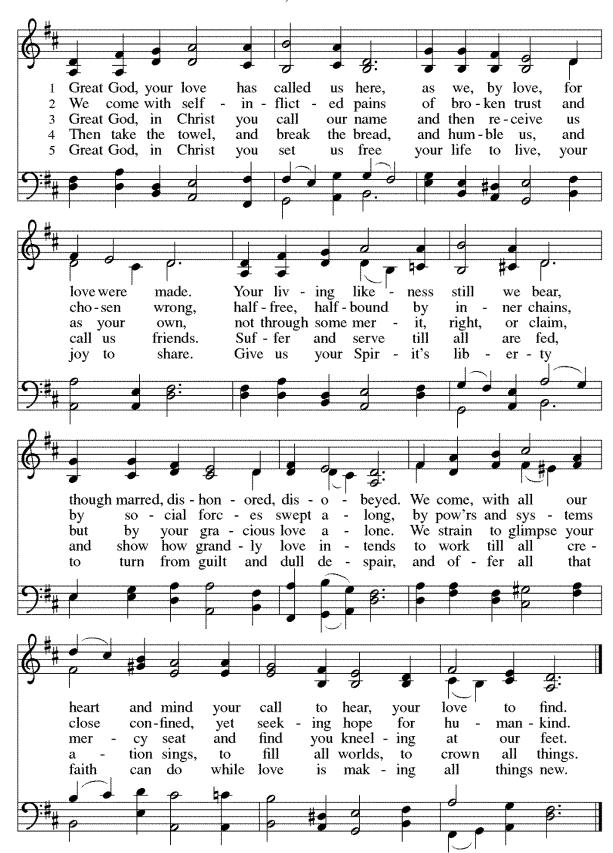
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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Music © Oxford University Press.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. Bring healing and wholeness especially to those we name before you now ... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us, and at the last bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

John Rutter

MEAL

OFFERING

Our gifts to God's work in the world reflect our thanksgiving for the many gifts God has given us. Thank you for your offerings which support God's work here at Grace, and for your offerings which support the work God does through other agencies and organizations.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One,

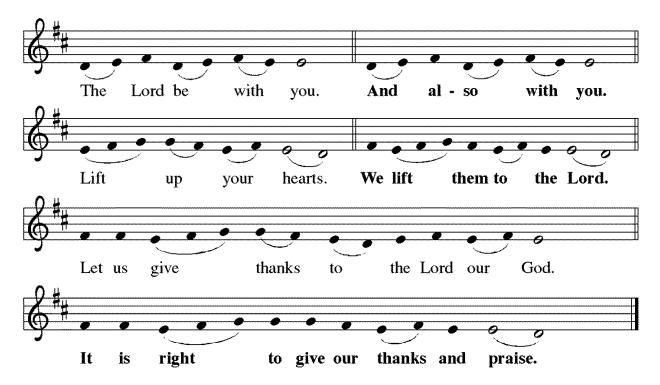
you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

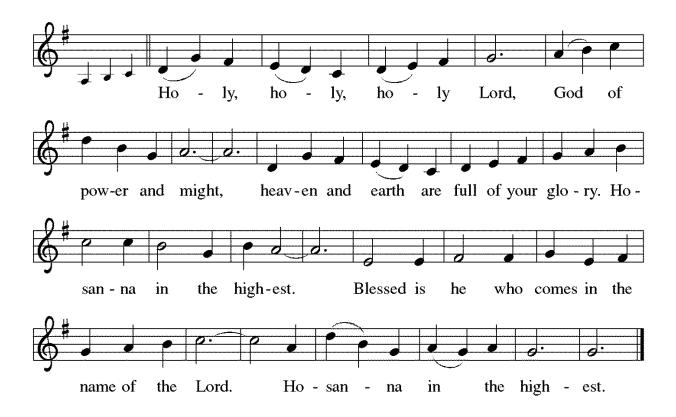
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
... as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:



With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your mercy, and teach us to pray:

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 risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come, eat and drink at God's table.

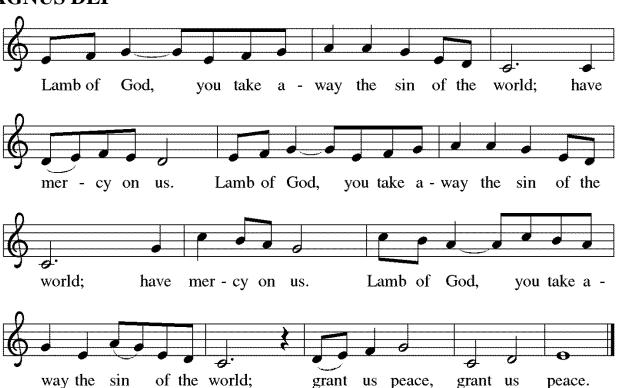
Thanks be to God!

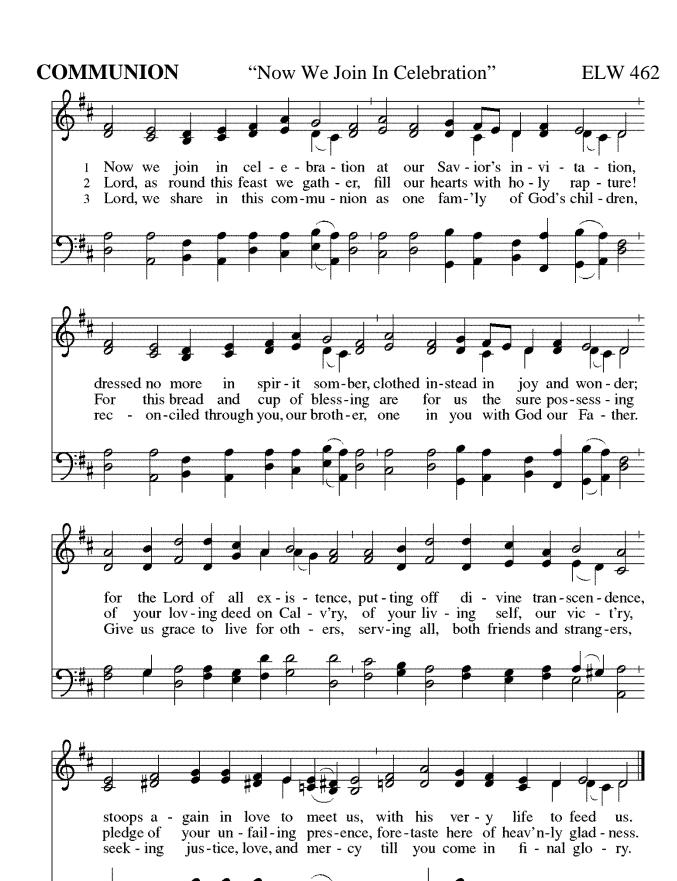
This is God's table. We invite all who are hungry for Christ's presence in their lives to receive this gift of mercy and forgiveness at the table.

For those who are not in the sanctuary: if you don't have bread, or you don't have wine or grape juice, Martin Luther reminds us that God's grace is fully present in each element – that receiving only the bread or only the wine is entire forgiveness.

Further, those of you who might not receive communion for whatever reason, please recognize and understand that God's forgiveness and mercy and love are fully and completely provided to you in ways additional to Holy Communion.

AGNUS DEI





Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990 Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

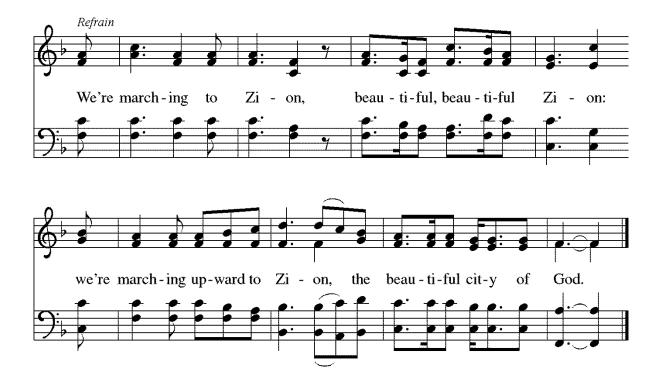
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Holy Spirit of Easter hope \oplus bless you now and always.

Amen.





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO SERVICE

Scripture Readings for Ascension of Our Lord, Thursday, May 9

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Scripture Readings for the 7th Sunday of Easter, May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 5, 2024

We pray for **those undergoing treatment**:

- Pr. Ron Roschke receiving treatment for cancer
- Hugh Ouellette (John Laitinen's cousin)
- Paul Herzegh (Mary and Charley Zabel's friend) receiving treatment for cancer
- Marilyn Engelbredt (Sandi Stahl's friend) receiving treatment for cancer
- Petra Landfester fighting breast cancer
- Tony Pappas (John Laitinen's friend)
- Marsha Herrmann receiving treatment for cancer
- Margurite DuPont (Tom Dozier's childhood friend) fighting metastatic breast cancer
- Karen O'Loughlin's Godchild
- Mary Dorsett
- Robert Reish (Sandi Stahl's friend)

We pray for **hope and healing for**:

- Chris Hayes (Austin and Brandon's mother) recovering from hip replacement
- Steve Kavalin (Hiroko Akima's friend) recovering from a six-bypass surgery
- Nick Vanderborgh
- all those affected by the 2023 Israel-Hamas War
- all those affected by the war against Ukraine
- Donda Combs and Marie Jauncey (Hiroko Akima's friends)
- Janix, Bob, and Jay Hogle (Patty Meyers' friends)
- John Laitinen
- Coqui Stetson (John Laitinen's daughter) recovering from a car accident
- Emmanuel Rusaka
- Susan Hull (Patty Meyers' friend) with ALS and other concerns
- Avis Fjestad (Anne Peterson's sister-in-law)
- Carl and Jan Stubenrauch
- Allan Wolfe
- Pete Tafoya
- Rich Harris (John Laitinen's cousin)

Grace Partner in Ministry

The designated Partner in Ministry (PiM) offering for May 2024 is **Kutandara.**

When our office administrator is not writing eNotes, laying out bulletins, creating annual reports, or learning how to use our amazing new AV system, she wears her *other* hat, Executive Director of local non-profit music school and community center, Kutandara.

Kutandara has been bringing Zimbabwean music to Boulder County and beyond for 25 years (Happy Birthday!), and seeks to allow everyone to experience the power and connectedness of music - either by participating, listening and dancing, or enjoying videos from the comfort of their own home.

In 2022, Grace's donations helped fund musical equipment and teacher stipends for 3 of Kutandara's partners on the ground in Zimbabwe, while Grace contributions in 2023 helped sponsor the 2nd annual Friendship Festival - an event that brought together 10 youth musical groups in the capital city of Harare. For some, it was the first time that they had been outside their village.

This year, Kutandara seeks to create not one, but two, Friendship Festivals - the 3rd annual event in Zimbabwe during Artistic Director Randy McIntosh's visit, and an inaugural event in Colorado...to bring together world music enthusiasts in friendship and support of each other. Learn more at https://kutandara.org

Thanks to the Grace Foundation, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2024 up to \$2,000/month. Please make your check to "Grace Lutheran Church" and add "PiM: Kutandara" to the memo line. You may place checks in the mail slot at Grace, send through the US mail, or use our electronic giving option Simply Giving on the Grace website. Thank you for your generosity!

Rooted in Grace

Adult Sunday School continues to look at religious art on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall.

Lectionary Bible Study continues on Wednesday, May 8, at 11:00 am. The study focuses on the lectionary texts for the next Sunday's worship, taking a deeper dive than is possible within the constraints of the service. Join us for spirited discussion and fellowship time!

The readings for Ascension of Our Lord, Thursday, May 9, 2024, are:

- Acts 1:1-11 Jesus sends the apostles
- **Psalm 47** *God has gone up with a shout.* (Ps. 47:5)
- Ephesians 1:15-23 Eyes to see the risen and ascended Christ
- Luke 24:44-53 Christ present in all times and places

The readings for the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12, 2024, are:

- Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Matthias added to the apostles
- **Psalm 1** The LORD knows the way of the righteous. (Ps. 1:6)
- 1 John 5:9-13 Life in the Son of God
- **John 17:6-19** Christ's prayer for his disciples

Reaching Out in Christ's Love

Thank you	for your	donations	of blank	greeting	cards for	the inmates	of New
Beginnings	s. Your c	cards allow	the wom	ien to cor	mmunicate	e with loved	d ones.

Remember **Harvest of Hope** food pantry when you shop for groceries this week. Our donations make a difference for those who struggle to find food each week.

This Week at Grace

Sunday, May 5: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:45 am Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Hall

10 am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary + YouTube

6:30-8:30 pm Hora Romaneasca, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 6

7-8 pm NA, Fellowship Hall

7-8 pm NarAnon, Library

7-9 pm Harmonia Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 7

12-1 pm Staff Meeting, via Zoom

7 pm Samuel Wetzel Recital, Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 8

11 am Lectionary Bible Study, via Zoom

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, May 9

9 am-12 pm Quilters, Fellowship Hall

5:45-7:15 pm ETP Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 10

10:30 am-1:30 pm ETP Auditions, Fellowship Hall

6-7 pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

8-9 pm NA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 11

9 am-12 pm Organist Practice, Sanctuary

Sunday, May 12: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

8:45 am Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Hall

10 am Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary + YouTube

6:30-8:30 pm Hora Romaneasca, Fellowship Hall

Grace Church Staff

Rev. Matthew Weber
Boyd Hamilton
Michael Hoffman
Amy Stewart McIntosh
Jody R
Rayo Rodriguez

Pastor
Pianist & Organist
Director of Music
Office Administrator
Financial Administrator
Custodian



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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