

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Worship with Holy Communion

### Sunday, May 25, 2025

*Good morning & welcome to Grace,  
as we celebrate the joyous season of Easter!*



**Alleluia! Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. Alleluia!** In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is – and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us, in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe, to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

**We are glad you are with us for worship today,** and to give thanks for the grace, mercy and hope offered to us in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **We offer a special welcome to any guests who may be with us this morning, and to all those who are joining us via Live-Stream.**

**Your bulletin** contains an outline of the worship service, with additional information displayed on the screens up front.

**Children are welcome in worship at Grace!** The voices of children only enhance worship, and they are welcome in this space! There is a Children's Corner in the sanctuary and, if needed, a nursery off the lobby.

**At Grace, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion each week. All are welcome at the Table.** We do come forward to the front of the sanctuary for communion. The Pastor stands in the center of the aisle with the bread, Gluten-free bread is available – just ask when you come forward. Communion assistants are located on both sides of the sanctuary, with both **wine (red)** and **juice (white)** based on your preference. Please place your empty cup in the bowl on your way back to your seat after you commune.

**For those participating from home, please have a small glass of wine or juice and a small piece of bread available for all who are planning to commune.** When we come to the Meal portion of the service, you're invited to share the bread and wine, saying: This is the body of Christ, given for you; and this is the blood of Christ, shed for you, as you commune yourself, and/or others.

**Again, welcome to worship!**

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

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⌘ = See Screens

**PRELUDE**

*"Morning Has Broken"*

arr. Marilyn Ham

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

⌘ **EASTER GREETING**

⌘ **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*"Drawn to the Light"*

**ELW 593**

⌘ **GREETING**

⌘ **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

⌘ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

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**FIRST READING**

**Acts 16:9 – 15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi. And we read:*

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

⌘ **PSALM 67 (read in unison)**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22:5

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon. And we read:*

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## ⌘ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### GOSPEL

John 5:1 – 9

The holy gospel, according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus performs a healing miracle on the sabbath. In doing so he both reveals divine creative power and teaches a richer, deeper meaning for the sabbath as a healing and creative time. And we read:*

<sup>1</sup> After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup> In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. <sup>5</sup> One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" <sup>7</sup> The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." <sup>8</sup> Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup> At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY      *"Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes"*      ELW 381

⌘ THE CREED ~ *Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE PEACE

The peace of our risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL** ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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OFFERTORY MUSIC      *"I've Got Peace Like A River"*      arr. Cindy Berry

## OFFERING

*If you would like to offer a gift, the collection plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience.*

⌘ OFFERING RESPONSE      *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*      ELW 186

## ⌘ OFFERING PRAYER

⌘ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Those moved to do so may rise.)

*The presiding minister continues with the proper preface*

## ⌘ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

⌘ THE LORD'S PRAYER & INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## ⌘ LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMNS      *"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"*      ELW 628  
                                 *"Come, Ye Disconsolate"*      ELW 607

⌘ BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**SENDING** ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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## ⌘ BLESSING

SENDING HYMN      *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*      ELW 815

## ⌘ DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE      *"Heavenly Sunlight"*      arr. Mark Hayes

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