



**TO RESTORE MY HOPE**

The Third Sunday of Easter  
April 23, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church  
Yorba Linda, California

# Grace Lutheran Church

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*Gathering around GRACE – Growing in GRACE – Going with GRACE  
In the land of gracious living*

We are part of the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod, churches throughout the world united to share Jesus.

We are part of the federation of Californian Lutheran High School here in southern California.

Whether you are a first time visitor or back at “home”, we are delighted to share our worship with you.  
Please come and worship with us again.

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## HE LIVES

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Sometime Easter afternoon, two men walked together for a few miles puzzling over Jesus' death. "We hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel," they said (Luke 24:19). Their hope for a better life died along with Jesus.

You've been there too – with hope dashed, died, and been left disappointed. But the Lord appeared with those two men that day. He explained. He opened their minds to the truth of God's Word. He restored their hope. And is the one who does so for us today! That's why HE LIVES!

*Our path of worship this morning is printed in this service folder. Please join in reading the responses marked with the "C" for Congregation.*

*This is a traditional  
Easter greeting in  
the Church.*

[L] In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

[L] Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[C] **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

[L] When Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter evening, he told them, “Peace be with you. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven.” Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen. (spoken)**

[L] When Jesus had opened his disciples eyes, they responded, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”



**THE WORD**

*In the Easter greeting, Jesus gives his church the Keys, the power to forgive sins in his name. Heaven is open!*

*The Church sings, “Alleluia,” because Jesus lives! Hymn #455.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

[L] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[L] Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen. (spoken)**

*During the Easter season the Old Testament lesson is replaced with one from the book of Acts to show how Christ's resurrection changed the lives of his disciples and the future of His Church.*

*On the day of Pentecost 3,000 became strangers here, and devoted themselves to lives as God's people.*

*Our faith and hope are not in perishable things, but in the LIVING ONE.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Acts 2:14a,32-41**

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

<sup>37</sup>When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup>Peter replied, “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. <sup>39</sup>The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup>With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many

wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **PSALM 116**

### **SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 1:17-21**

<sup>17</sup>Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup>He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

**♪ That night th' apostles met in fr;**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

[M] Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

[C] **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**All: Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? Alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 24:13-35**

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup> “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

*After the Gospel, we say:*

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christ Is Risen He Is Risen Indeed**

**SERMON** based on the Gospel for today





## Prayer and 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.**

- L:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.
- C: Amen. (*spoken*)**



“The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus” by Tissot, c.1884