**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**First Sunday PLSIP\* April 12, 2020**

\*Post-Lent, Shelter-In-Place



***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

Even though the calendar tells us that today is the Easter Celebration, we at Grace have decided that we will celebrate the festival of Christ’s Resurrection on the first Sunday that the shelter-in-place order is lifted and we can worship together again. In the meantime, we are marking a new “liturgical season”—Sundays Post-Lent Sheltering-In-Place, or PLSIP. The lessons and hymns will reflect our longing for hope, healing, courage, and the restoration of community.

**Gathering**

**Even when we are apart, the Holy Spirit binds us together as the people of God.**

**Opening Hymn** ELW #528 Come and Fill Our Hearts

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**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus is with us in all things. Today, when we long to be celebrating his resurrection with our beloved family in faith, we turn to your promise that even when we are apart, we are one in you because you are with us all. Strengthen us with the love of all who love you around the globe, and receive our worship, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### Word

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

**First Lesson** Isaiah 26:1-4

On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; he sets up victory like walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace— in peace because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Lesson** Colossians 2:1-5

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I long for your salvation, Lord, and your law is my delight.**

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

**Gospel** Matthew 6:25-33

[Jesus said,] “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

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

**Sermon** (Available at www.GraceGlenEllyn.org) The Rev. Melody Eastman

**Hymn of the Day** ELW #611 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for healing and strength for the people and nations of this world as we face the COVID-19 pandemic together. Help those afflicted find hope and comfort during this time of uncertainty. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the scientists and researchers around the globe who are working tirelessly to find a cure for COVID-19. Grant them the knowledge and wisdom to find a solution to help humanity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the doctors, nurses, and all personnel who are on the front lines caring for those afflicted by COVID-19. Comfort them when they are scared, give them courage and hope as they go to work each day, fighting for the survival of their patients. Watch over their families as they spend extended periods of time apart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those affected by sudden loss or shifts in income; for those who have been deemed "essential" in their working role, putting their life on the line to help the community at large; for all people who are finding it difficult to eat or find shelter. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the mental health of all people who are struggling to find hope in their life right now. Move us to work for providing the support and services they need to navigate this time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our clergy and our educators who are suddenly faced with teaching and supporting others in new ways. Give them guidance to continue their work of inspiring hope in the lives of those they serve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of life, you are the hope of all who have died. Comfort the families who have lost loved ones, and bring us all at last to the feast of life that has no end. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Blessing**

The One God is our past, our present and our future. May the Love that holds all things strengthen our hearts, free us for love, and grant us peace. **Amen.**

**Hymn** ELW #765 Lord of All Hopefulness

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**Current Prayer Requests**

*Please keep these people in your prayers and reach out to our sisters and brothers in Christian love. Names will be left on the list for two weeks, unless you indicate that they should remain in our prayers for a longer period.*

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Family of Rita Webster Cousin of Vince Hardt Comfort in Grief

Family of Russell Lantz Grandfather of Bruce Lantz Comfort in Grief

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Nancy Lantz Member Healing & Strength

Jim & Helen Sladek Members 62nd Anniversary 3/22

Norma Petersen Member Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

David Dean Son of Lenore Dean Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracey Member Healing & Strength

Rich Davison Member Healing & Strength

Mark Frerichs and Family Friend of Sue Pagnoni Safety & Strength

Susan Papierski Food Pantry Director Healing & Strength

Benjamin Cuatzo Friend of the Derricos Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Farrel Benefield, Anita Blakemore, Bob Clauss, Evelyn Elson, Patricia Moore,

Carol Petersen

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**Grace’s website** is being updated almost daily with new resources, including instrumental and sing-along music from Bradford; coloring pages for relaxing, meditation and prayer; coloring pages for little ones; links to videos and articles to help you manage stress and anxiety; and, of course, Wednesday and Sunday sermons from Pastor Melody. And more resources are in the planning, so check back often! **Resources are available online at** [**www.GraceGlenEllyn.org**](http://www.GraceGlenEllyn.org)

**Easter Flower** orders are suspended, but may resume when we find out when we can start worshipping again.

**Easter Service:** If we miss Easter (as it seems likely we will), we will celebrate Easter on our first Sunday back together, no matter when that is! In the meantime, after Palm/Passion Sunday (when we’ve “run out” of Lent) Pastor Melody will choose texts and prepare a sermon for each Sunday. After our Easter celebration we will pick up with the liturgical calendar at the current date.

The **Progressive Dinner** scheduled for April 25 has been **cancelled** even if we’re meeting in worship again

**One for the Foxes:** Concert on April 15 has been **cancelled**. We hope to reschedule later in the year.

**CROP Walk Update:** This mission has not changed due to COVID-19 and, in fact, the need for local and global food supply is even more imperative - so let's stay focused and do everything we can to raise funds to fight hunger!!  
  
The event on May 3 will adapt to the limitations in place at that time - while we cannot predict exactly - we have decided the following:  
  
**1)** **LET'S WALK** on May 3 at 1pm separately but together in our cause!!  
You can walk anywhere and any distance - but let's all walk at 1pm.  
You can walk 3 miles in a park or 1 mile in your neighborhood or 3 feet in your living room!!  
**ACTION:** Sign-up on this web-site so we can see everyone who will be walking!! Or contact me, Mike Pertle, and I can sign you up!!  
Even family and friends in other cities and states can participate!!  
There will be no gathering or check-in - just walking!  
  
**2)** **DONATE** - Please continue to encourage people to donate to this cause. This web page enables on-line contributions and we welcome donations now through May!!  
**ACTION:** Send this link to family and friends anywhere in the U.S. who want to help support our local and global food supplies!!  
If you sign up to walk - they can donate directly to you - or to Gary Church as a whole. Any amount is appreciated!!  
  
To donate, sign up to walk, or both – website is available now!!

[**crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020**](http://crophungerwalk.org/glenellynil/garyumc2020)  
  
What's important is that we remain purposeful to this cause and stay in community even if we are not physically together! Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3 to participate any way you can!

**Community Vacation Bible School: June 22 - 26:** We are excited to announce that Grace will continue our VBS partnership with First Congregational Church and Faith Lutheran Church. This year **Community VBS** will take place at First Congregational Church, just one block north of Grace on Forest Avenue. Registration can be found at the following link (also on Grace’s Webpage):

**https://forms.gle/8SRv38WhYLVWMZ2K7**

**Middle School and High School** students serve as wonderful leaders and assistants for this event. If your student would like to serve the community in this way, please reach out to Becky Ficarella. **Adults!!!** We need as much help as we can get with this event! Whether it’s prepping in the weeks ahead, serving during that week, or being a set up/clean up helper, we would greatly appreciate your love and commitment to this wonderful week.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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