

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Easter Sunrise

April 5th, 2026

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"
Ephesians 2:8

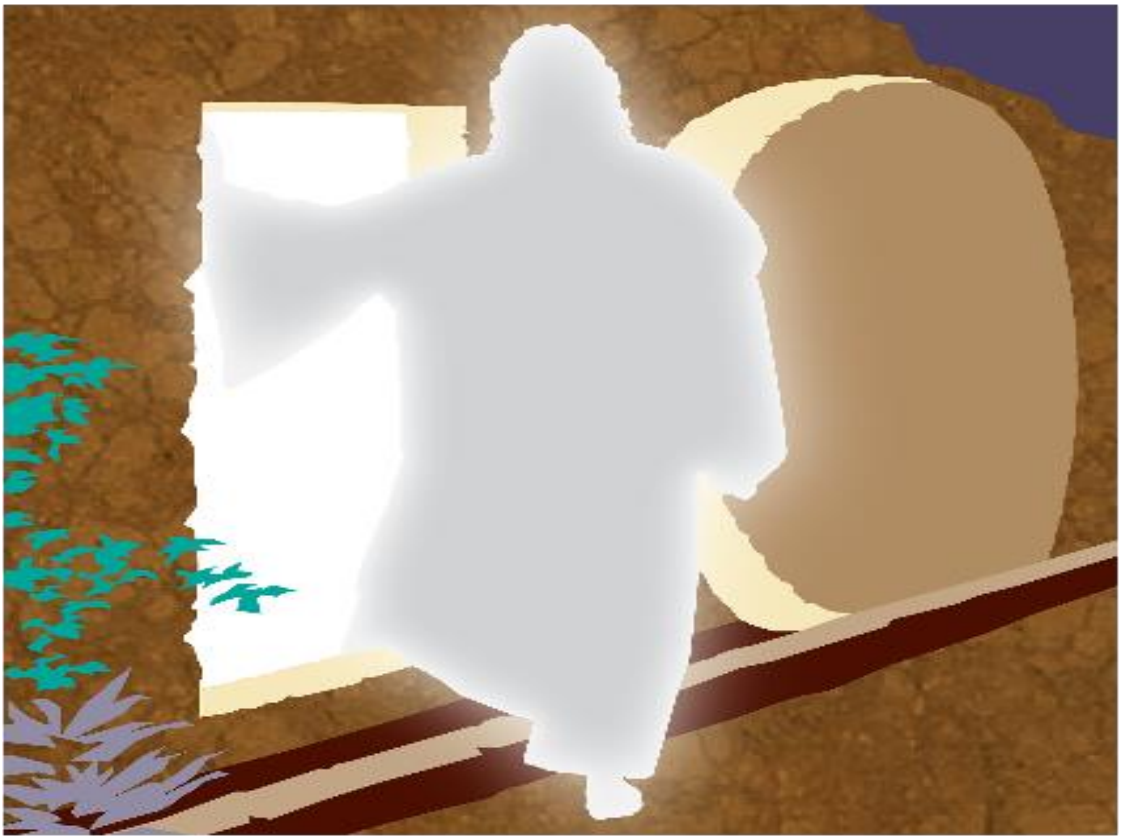


Image: "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here."
(Mark 16:6)

Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again! If your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather—“Resurrection Joy”

The old Sabbath is past. The first day of the week has become the eighth day, the eternal day, the first day of the promised resurrection of the new heavens and earth. The angel knows why we are here. *“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen”* (Mark 16:6). His body was in the tomb of death no longer. He is now glorified, body and soul. Now when He says, *“I am with you always, to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20), we know what He means. So we come here *“very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen”* (Mark 16:2) not looking for a closed entrance to a tomb but for the risen Lord speaking in His Word and touching us with forgiveness and peace *“in the breaking of the bread”* (Luke 24:35), His body and blood given and shed for us Christians to eat and to drink. We gather on Easter in excited yet sometimes silent joy.

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service—as outlined in your bulletin...

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “This Joyful Eastertide” (LSB 482 vs. 1-3)

Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: We are illumined by the brightness of His rising.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: Death no more has dominion over us.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father. Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of the risen Jesus Christ, I ask You to forgive me all my sins. Deliver me from my guilt and death and raise me up to forgiveness and life that my heart may finally be at peace. Amen.

Pastor: By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and forgiven. 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.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

INTROIT (*Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18; antiphon: v. 1b, read responsively*)

Pastor: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

People: the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

Pastor: The Lord is my strength and my song,

People: and he has become my salvation.

Pastor: Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,

People: your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

Pastor: You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;

People: you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Pastor: You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,

People: the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode,

Pastor: the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

People: The Lord will reign forever and ever.

ALL: 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: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

People: the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 14:10-15:1*
(The Israelites cross the Red Sea.)

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,
“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” (LSB 903 vs. 1-4)

EPISTLE LESSON *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*
(*Christ died, was buried, and rose again.*)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE *2 Timothy 1:10b*

People: Alleluia. Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 20:1-18*

(*Mary Magdalene meets the risen Lord.*)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” (LSB 467 vs. 1-4, 7)

SERMON Christ Is Risen! So What? (1 Corinthians 15:19-26)

OFFERTORY “He Is Arisen! Glorious Word” (LSB 488 vs. 1)

OFFERING/ATTENDANCE

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty and eternal God, we give You thanks for all Your goodness, but especially on this day for the gift of the salvation of the whole world through the forgiveness of sin and restoration of eternal life to all believers in the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give us the new vision of faith that we may believe that He is with us to the end of the age. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Rule and govern Your whole church throughout the world that we may be witnesses to Your gift of new life. Guide, direct, and bless all pastors and ministers of Your Word and blessed Sacraments that they may faithfully proclaim and distribute Your gifts of grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all in the authority of government of our country and of all the nations of the earth that they may serve the citizens under their care with justice and in righteousness that all may lead quiet and peaceable lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Comfort all who are in trouble, want, sickness, or any adversity, giving them the healing of hope in Your mercy and faith in Your promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: As we remember the great crowd of witnesses that have gone before us and are with You, we pray that You acknowledge us to be in their company now by faith and admit us into their eternal fellowship, that when our last hour comes You may receive us into Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People:Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: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.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” (LSB 466 vs 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Easter Sunday 4/5 6:00am</u>	<u>Easter Sunday 8:30am</u>	<u>Easter Sunday 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Craig Lau	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Glen Dotson	Martin Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	Henry Pepler
<u>Ushers</u>		Bob Buzzell	Mike Huber
		Lynn Buzzell	Martin Taggatz
 <u>Livestream</u>	 Jennifer Olen	 Glenn Dotson	



Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Series Overview (2026)

Easter Sunrise Service April 5, 2026 – 6:00 a.m. (no Communion)

Christ Is Risen! So What?, 1 Corinthians 15:19–26

Easter Festival Services April 5, 2026 – 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. (with Communion)

“Middle C” and the Rest of the Story, Colossians 3:1–4

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

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Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
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