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**Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026
Now the Feast and Celebration
Hymnal Supplement (1991)**

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

We at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day in the name of our God, who is our protector and refuge. For the Lord upholds our lot and welcomes us into the lands of plenty, where grace and mercy are bestowed upon us. May God bless us with gladdened hearts and rejoicing spirits, that our faith be renewed and our hope strengthened, as we walk in the fullness of joy and abundant peace, through Jesus Christ, who is present with us always. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GREETING HYMN: The Peace of the Lord (#646)

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The gracious peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the tangible love of God, and the empowering fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

NOW THE FEAST (HS p. 4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of wonders, your grace is revealed through the gift of Jesus our Saviour, who you rose from the dead and is tangibly present with us all. Strengthen our faith that we might experience the fullness of life in and through that same Jesus Christ, the risen Messiah. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A reading from Acts.

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Peter.

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ’s resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him

now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (HS p. 8)

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

God of compassion and grace, in your presence may we be led by your Word, guided by your Spirit, and strengthened by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This week after Easter always feels a little off for me. Maybe it's because I'm recovering from the busyness of Lent and Holy Week. Maybe it's because now that it's all over, I have to relearn how to not be in that high stress mode. Or maybe it's because... well... I'm always a bit disappointed in myself with how the Easter service went. Not just this year, mind you, but like *all* years.

I know, I know, no one else really cares, as to most, it's just Easter, basically the same as any other Sunday pretty much. But for me as a pastor who leads these services? It's *Easter*. It's one of highest

points of the year, I'd even say even higher than Christmas. It's the culmination of everything we do and everything we are as a church. It's the foundation of our faith and the reason for our religiosity. It's our motivation to be who are to be.

So pair all that with my low-key borderline OCD, and that makes for a *lot* of pressure around the day.

Because even if you notice it or not, joke about it or not, or maybe even care or not, for me, my goal for these high and holy days like Easter has always been perfection. All the planning, preparing, and chair straightening was all to perfect the worship experience for everyone in attendance both in person and online. This past Sunday, along with all the Easter Sundays that I've ever had the privilege and honour to lead here and anywhere else, was painstakingly and meticulously put together in the hopes that it would be... *perfect*.

But of course, that's not what it actually turns out to be. Like, ever.

Technical difficulties, unforeseen variables, and just poorly written sermons always seem to creep up at the worst possible times. Like if you remember from last week, I couldn't even get the stream to start properly and you'd think I'd be better at it as I've been doing it like every week for the past 4 or 5 years. There were so many of these very avoidable blunders that have dotted the Easter Sundays and otherwise over the years. Like sometimes I forget to charge the batteries that I so rely on for the different pieces of tech I have up here. I've missed important pieces around the liturgy or said them wrong and ruined the moment. Or once or twice I've even mistakenly put up the wrong hymn lyrics up on the screen (either that or our musician plays the wrong hymn...).

So in spite of my good intentions, my well-laid plans, my best efforts, *something* always seems to happen and mars the image of perfection that I was working so hard to achieve. Something unexpected or unplanned for takes place and throws a wrench into the works. Some unwanted thing comes up and leaves me... well as I said earlier... disappointed in myself.

I mean I told you all last week about my very real fear of failure, and often to me, anything less than perfection is basically failure. So if I were honest, I fail *a whole lot*.

I know, this sounds pretty extreme and perhaps unrelatable to many of you more normal people, but I have a feeling you all have felt some kind of disappointment when things didn't go as planned, be it in yourself or others. Perhaps you've held higher standards than were realistically attainable. Or maybe your standards *were* completely reasonable but you were just working with a bunch of dunderheads who couldn't pour water out of a boot even if the instructions were written on the heel. Either case, we've all know what it's like to be disappointed, whether it was justified, rational, or called for or not.

And we get some semblance of that disappointment in today's gospel reading, don't we? The disciples also find themselves just a bit after that first Easter and fresh from hearing the wild claims that Jesus is risen. And even after hearing some eye-witness testimony or having first-hand experience, they still, out of fear and perhaps disappointment around how things ended up going down, hide themselves behind closed and locked doors... all but one. Best known as Doubting Thomas.

As I've mentioned in the past, I don't like calling him that, because that isn't at all what he was. While we don't know where the guy was while the rest were cowering in fear, his not being holed up in that upper room tells me that he wasn't hiding, he wasn't afraid, he continued to be as he always had been. Doesn't sound like a doubter to me. I mean, Peter was always the de facto leader of the group behind Jesus, but Thomas was actually the more faithful one, the one ready to follow wherever Jesus goes, the one that was most gung-ho *to do* when the situation was more conducive to just *don't*. So I wonder if the other disciples were disappointed when Thomas was just out being Thomas again, outside of the box, marching to his own beat, bold and confident as ever, and not as cautious and careful as they were being.

Then I imagine Thomas was disappointed after hearing what he missed for just not being there.

But I think the one who should be and would have the most right to be disappointed in this whole story, is Jesus. I mean, his whole mission was to proclaim good news but his message fell on deaf ears. He wanted people to know that they're loved and that they matter, but he was deserted, denied, and discarded by his followers and haters alike. He came and gave his all, and his all was taken, beaten, and killed.

Disappointing for sure. Disappointed in those who were trusted. Disappointed in unmet expectations. Disappointed when things don't go perfectly as planned. This is the kind of disappointment that I have for myself after I feel like I've failed. This is the disappointment that we and likely the disciples feel after our hopes are shattered and our dreams dashed. This is the disappointment of the world as we are collectively and constantly let down and descend deeper into darkness and brokenness and death.

But the good news is that in that darkness, God shines a light that cannot be overcome. God picks up the pieces of our brokenness and heals us back together into wholeness. God appears in the midst of death, breathes upon us peace, and brings us life.

This doesn't mean that the darkness is abolished, it is and will be still there. Brokenness and pain can and will still happen. We will all still face death. While God doesn't cause or instigate these, they also don't drive God away from us. Rather, God remains with us through them, in our fears and disappointments, behind our locked doors, in the worst times of our lives, and reminds us that Jesus has scars too.

The wounds that come from being rejected and denied heal but still leave a mark. The disappointment that leads to doubt and fear is dispelled by God's peace breathed onto us. Christ's body that was broken is now given to us through the sacraments, through this community, through the very real presence of God in our lives, reminding us of who we are, who we are created to be, and who we are not but forgiven for anyway. So it's in the scars, the peace, the bread and cup that we share that Christ can be most seen, most felt, and most present with and among us in our community, our service, and even in our disappointments.

See, life isn't perfect, but that's ok because we aren't called to be perfect. Life is full of unmet expectations and failures, and that's ok because we were given an example of the divine healing found in the grace and forgiveness of the Resurrection. Life doesn't always go as we would like or prefer, but God's promise always has been and will always be that we are not alone but lifted up in love, welcomed into the eternal arms of community, and revealed to be God's people forever.

So while we will still feel disappointed in ourselves, in others, and just at the state of the world, we can have faith that God's love and grace is big enough to cover whatever is thrown at it. While we still will feel hurt and broken, we can trust that God brings us back together and heals us with peace and salvation. While we can still have doubts, we can believe that God's promises of love and salvation are true, and we will never be abandoned but eternally welcomed into God's kingdom, God's community, God's family with all the saints of all times and places.

In this Easter season and beyond, may we always be mindful of the resurrected life that we are invited into in Christ, not one of perfectly planned out plans pulled off to perfection, but one that is messy, fragile, and at times disappointingly painful, but also full of love, healing, and peace, now and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY We Walk by Faith (#365)

CREED (HS p. 11)

With all those given the breath of new life and peace, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle's Creed:

**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

Led to experience the love of God in our lives and community, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "by your tangible mercy, O God," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you protect us as our refuge and in you, we find peace. Strengthen our faith that we be able to see and recognise you present throughout our lives and service. By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you are our good above all other. We take delight in the love and relationships that you give us, and we are blessed to serve and worship alongside all the saints. May our ministry be pleasing to you, that our proclamation of your gospel be seen and heard by all. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered leaders, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Hills of Peace Lutheran Church in Kamloops and their pastor John Boyd; and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their pastor Katrina Vigen. By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you have created these pleasant lands for us to inherit and live, and we are blessed by your providence. Increase our stewardship of all that you have made, that our relationship with this planet and each other only improve. By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, in you we shall not be shaken, even when the world seems to have fallen into darkness. Continue to lead our cities and nations that we might all learn to work together toward peace

and harmony. We also pray for the continued support of those that we've sponsored to come into our country: Abraham Barhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri Gabramikael. By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, your love makes our hearts glad and your healing makes our spirits rejoice and our bodies rest in hope. Be with all among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely that your presence will always be seen and felt. Especially we pray for for Kathy and family; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Greg and Aikiko; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Pastor Carol; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Kelly; Betty; Ngan Kew (nan CUE); Matt; Patty; Sarasawathi (SAR-ah-sa-WAH-tee); and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...

By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, even in death you do not abandon us but you lift us up and lead us on the path of life, where we can reside in your presence with all the saints in the fullness of joy forevermore. May we continue to draw inspiration from the lives of faith of the past, that our communities and service be a blessing to all. By your tangible mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your everlasting presence, seen in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and places give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who leads us to experience your love and grace in the world, and joins us with the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the church on earth, to praise your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (HS p. 15)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Yes Lord you are holy and mighty, and the earth praises your name. For even in our depravity you show us love, even in the darkness of the world you show us light, and even in death you show us life. You do this most fully through the teachings and ministry of your Son Jesus, whom you sent to be present among us as one of us, to reassure us of your saving love and grace.

For on the night that he was betrayed, it was your Son Jesus who sat with his friends for a meal, where he took some bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after they ate it, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink from saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

So it is in this bread and cup that we can tangibly see and experience your love and presence among us, leading us, teaching us, and moving us to declare this mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Then it is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong, bringing us forth as your people in the world, reflecting your light throughout the shadows of life, and proclaiming your love to all in need, through the blessing and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (HS p. 18)

Gathered into God's presence 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 us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see, God's love given to us all.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (HS p. 18)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (#392)

Be Not Afraid (#388)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have again fed and nourished us with your truth and promises, and you have made yourself known and present with us where we are, wherever we are, and reminded us that we are not alone. Strengthen us for your service, that the joy of your love be known to all, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God who loves bless you and keep you,
the God who is present shine on you and be gracious onto you,
and the God who meets us where we are, look upon you with favour and breathe upon you
peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Touch That Soothes and Heals (ACS #939)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to trust, believe, and experience Christ among us.

Thanks be to God.