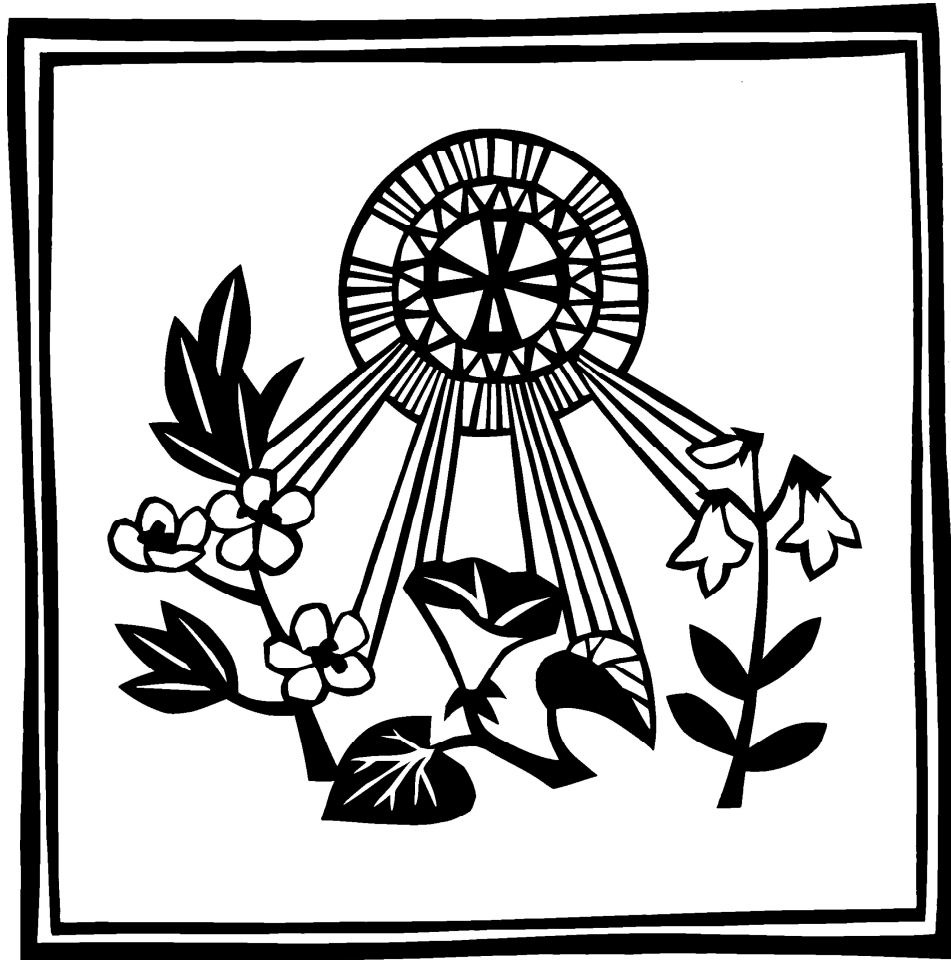


**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 14, 2023—8:30am**



**Grace Lutheran Church**

521 Providence Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23325  
757-420-4704

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



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)  
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/she)

**Our Mission Statement:**

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

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Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.  
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.  
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.  
+ Please stand as you are able.

**+ Gathering +**

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

**Prelude**

"Ancient Words" *arr. by Carol Tornquist*

**+ Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

**+ Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.  
**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.**

**Empower our witness to your resurrection.**

**Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

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**+ Gathering Song**

“You Are God Alone (Not a God)”

You are not a god created by human hands  
You are not a god dependent on any mortal man  
You are not a god in need of anything we can give  
By Your plan that's just the way it is

**Refrain:** You are God alone from before time began  
You were on Your throne You are God alone  
And right now in the good times and bad  
You are on Your throne You are God alone

You're unchangeable You're unshakable  
You're unstoppable that's what You are  
You're unchangeable You're unshakable  
You're unstoppable that's what You are

You're the only God whose power none can contend  
You're the only God whose name and praise will never end  
You're the only God who's worthy of ev'rything we can give  
You are God that's just the way it is

And right now in the good times and bad  
You are on Your throne You are God alone

Billy J. Foote | Cindy Foote

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Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

**+ Prayer of the Day**

ELW p.35

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am

### +Word+

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

#### First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

## Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am

### Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

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+ Gospel Acclamation

ELW #174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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+ Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Young at Heart Message

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

Sermon

The Rev. Brett Wilson

**Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am**

**+ Song of the Day**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, lord;  
and where there is doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there is sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek much to be consoled as  
to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as  
to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Daniel Kantor © 1984 GIA Publications

**Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am**

**+ Nicene Creed**

p. 104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\* universal



## Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am

### + Prayers of Intercession

sung refrain: "Lord, Be Glorified"

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

**Refrain:**    **In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.**  
**In my life, Lord, be glorified today.**

Bob Kilpatrick

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God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love.

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets.

#### **Refrain**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving, especially those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*).

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Refrain**

### + Peace

**Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am**

**+Meal+**

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

**Offering**

*Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able! Electronic donations can be made at*

*[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611).*

*Checks can be also be sent to church:  
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*



**+ Offering Prayer**

Please stand as you are able.  
Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**+ Great Thanksgiving**

ELW p.107

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.**

**+ Thanksgiving at the Table**

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### + Lord's Prayer

ELW p.112

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

### + Invitation to Communion

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

#### ***Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace***

*When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.*

*Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.*

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**Communion Song**

“Taste and See”

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of  
the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;  
my soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me.  
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of  
the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.  
I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles I was  
set free.  
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of  
the Lord.

Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you  
ask.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our  
trust.  
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of  
the Lord.

James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34  
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**+ Sending +**

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

**Blessing**

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**+ Sending Song**

“Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble”

Did you feel the mountains tremble? Did you hear the oceans roar when the people rose to sing of Jesus Christ, the risen One?

Did you feel the people tremble? Did you hear the singers roar when the lost began to sing of Jesus Christ, the saving One?

And we can see that, God, You're moving, a mighty river through the nations; and young and old will turn to Jesus. Fling wide, you heavenly gates; prepare the way of the risen Lord.

**Refrain:** Open up the doors. Let the music play, let the streets resound with singing: Songs that bring You hope, songs that bring You joy, songs who dance upon injustice.

Do you feel the darkness tremble when all the saints join in one song, and all the streams flow as one river to wash away our brokenness?

And here we see that God, You're moving; a time of jubilee is coming, when young and old return to Jesus. Fling wide, you heavenly gates; prepare the way of the risen Lord.

Martin Smith

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14, 2023—8:30am**

**+ Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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