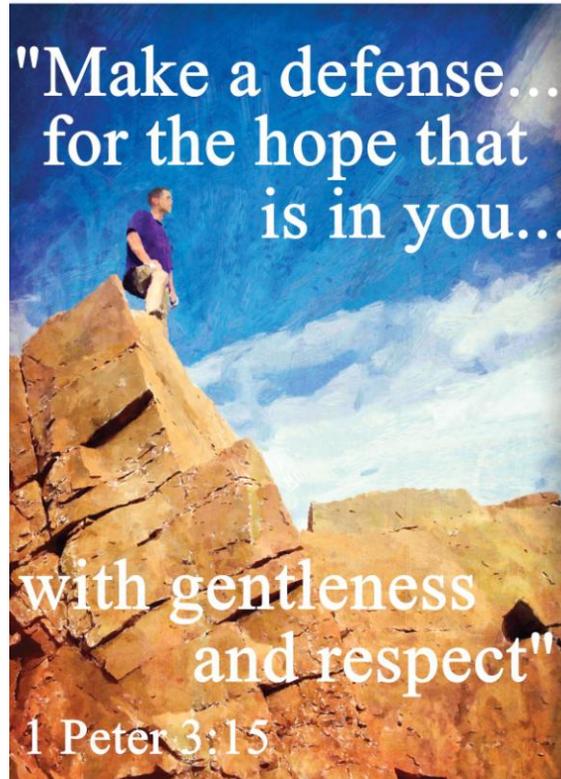


Grace Lutheran Church
6810 Winnetka Avenue North • Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
Phone: 763-533-4411 • Fax: 763-533-4434
Secretary's E-mail: grace@gracelcms.org • Website: www.gracelcms.org
Pastor Vance Milbrath • E-mail prmilbrath@gracelcms.org • Phone: 763-567-9635

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020



Preparing for Worship

As you prepare for God's action in your life today, set aside the busy-ness and distractions of your everyday routine. We invite you to

- in your Bible or Hymnal, read through today's appointed psalm: **PSALM 66:8-20**
- Review today's Scripture readings in the bulletin
- Focus on the Lord in prayer. Sample prayers are on the inside front cover of the hymnal, or feel free to use our usual pre-service prayer:

Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

*Please feel free to participate further in this modified service
by reading aloud the lines in bold marked for congregational participation*

Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Confession of Sin

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

A time for silent reflection upon God's Word and personal prayers of confession

P Lord God,

C **though the strife is over, the battle done, and now is the victor's triumph won, sin still hangs on. We are Your baptized people. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us into our Easter joy.**

Declaration of Grace

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

† Service of the Word †

Introit

Ps. 119:89–93; antiphon: Ps. 119:105



Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.
Forever, O | LORD, your word*
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;*
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.
By your appointment they | stand this day,*
for all things are your | servants.
If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.
I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.



☐ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.
Forever, O | LORD, your word*
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.

Kyrie

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

From Isaiah to Peter to us, Lord God, You call Your people to live and speak Your Word.

C **Fill us and lead us by Your Holy Spirit so that we hear Your call every day,**

P and by Your love and Gospel, overcome our fears and false gods,

C **so that we let our light shine before others, and so that they see our good works and glorify You;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 17:22-25, 29-31

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed

anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but

made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live,

you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

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.

Hymn of the Day	“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” vs. 1-4	LSB 741
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Sermon

“Apologizing for Jesus”
1 Peter 3:13-22, Acts 17:22-25, 29-31

Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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

C 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.

Closing Collect

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, we thank You for Your great loving-kindness in sending Your only-begotten Son into the flesh to conquer sin and death.

- C We ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we are able constantly to serve You;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn	“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”	LSB 819
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Sending

- P** Go in Peace; serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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