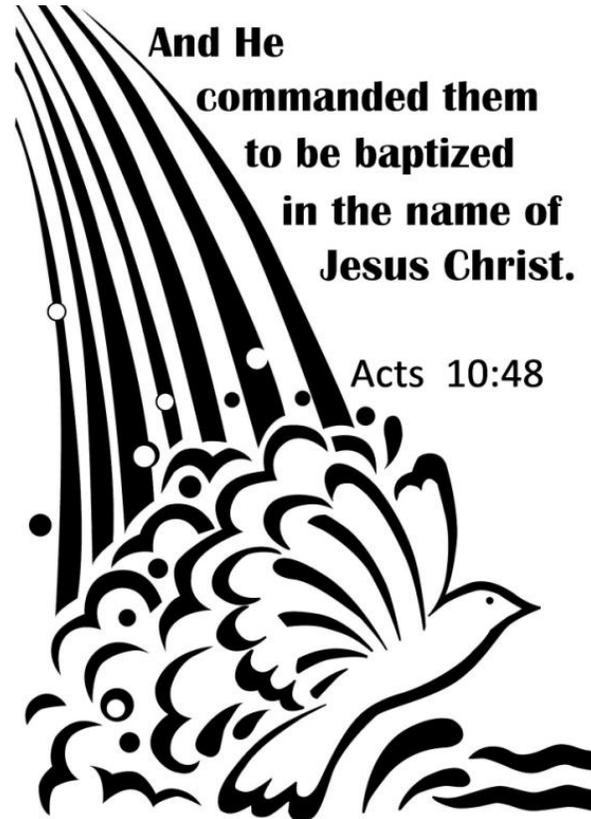


Grace Lutheran Church
6810 Winnetka Avenue North • Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
Phone: 763-533-4411 • Fax: 763-533-4434
Secretary's E-mail: grace@gracelcms.org • Website: www.gracelcms.org
Pastor Vance Milbrath • E-mail prmilbrath@gracelcms.org • Phone: 763-567-9635

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021



Preparing for Divine Service

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 98**
- 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.**

Opening Sentences

- P Praise the LORD!
C **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**
- P I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
C **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**
- P The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
C **Praise the LORD!**

† Confession and Absolution †

- P In repentance, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
- C **Gracious God, I admit and confess my sinfulness. I am stained with sin. Each day I’ve done things I am not to do, and I’ve failed to do things that I am to do as Your servant. I have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. I have not always been ready to care and quick to help. I deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy through my Savior Jesus Christ, I come to You for forgiveness. Have mercy on me, O God.**

Kyrie

Lord, _____ have mer - cy, Christ, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ have mer - - - - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Risen and ascended Lord, while we were still in our sins You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us Your friends.

C **By Your great love for us, inspire us to love each other and to bear fruit according to Your promise;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

A Peter opened his mouth and said:

P “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. As for the word that He sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He

went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

- A While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,
- P “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”
- A And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the

water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia



Holy Gospel

John 15:9–17

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master

is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed *The Third Article*

P We learn from our First Reading today that the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles as well as to Jews, which includes all the peoples of the world. Let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn	“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”	LSB 556
	vs. 1-4	

Sermon

“God’s Gracious Eyes”

Acts 10:34–48

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 All thanks and praise to You, almighty God, for the gift of forgiveness won by Your Son's offering on the cross and for the strengthening of our souls for life today and for eternity.
- C **Amen.**

Recognition of Mothers

Prayer for Mother's Day

- P We join together in the prayer for Mother's Day. Let us pray.
- C **Dearest Lord Jesus, bless all mothers. Help mothers to raise their children to trust in You. Be with those mothers who journey alone; give them an extra measure of Your grace. Comfort those mothers who have said goodbye to their children and those who long to be mothers. Protect all expectant mothers. Help us all to honor our mothers, whether they are with us now or at home with You. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.**
- P Since 1870, the second Sunday in May has been chosen to honor mothers in the United States. Today, we include our appreciation for grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all women whose contributions to the well-being of children have enriched society. Through the ages, many women have been remembered and honored by the Church. The hymn "For All the Faithful Women" celebrates Christian women throughout the centuries, thanking God for them.

The final stanza of “For All the Faithful Women” is a doxology, most appropriate this day to glorify God as we express our thanks for the faithful women in our lives and in the ongoing life of the Church. Please remain standing as we sing verses 1 and 4 of Hymn 855 after the benediction.

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 † give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn	“For All the Faithful Women” vs. 1 & 4	LSB 855
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Sending

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

Acknowledgments

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