

The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

Take full advantage of the prayer resource we send you each week. Do it with someone else as much as possible. Give the daily Psalms and readings a good workout.

Bulletin Deadline

Please send all information for the Sunday Bulletin and the Weekly Newsletter to Pastor Tim (stmaximos@aol.com). There is no guarantee that information sent after Wednesday will make it in Sunday's bulletin. **Thank you.**

Check out our Web Site (www.giftofgracelc.org)

For more information about Gift of Grace Lutheran Church check our website. Pastor Tim is also available for calls and pastoral visits.

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GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2020

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS

The fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

Prelude

Announcements

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Sending Hymn..... *“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”* No. 781*

*WOV - With One Voice (Blue Hymnal)

Announcements

Sunday, 5/10 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00am Choir Practice-*Not Gathering at this time*

9:00am Divine Service-*Not Gathering at this time*

10:45am Adult Class-*Not Gathering at this time*

Tuesday, 5/12

1:00pm Prayer Gathering *Not Gathering at this time*

Wednesday, 5/13

6:30pm Confirmation Class (good weather at Duesenbergs, otherwise at church)

Friday, 5/15

6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study *Not Gathering at this time*

Sunday, 5/17 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00am Choir Practice-*Not Gathering at this time*

9:00am Divine Service-*Not Gathering at this time*

10:45am Adult Class-*Not Gathering at this time*

Welcome to Guests and Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us for worship this morning! If you are not familiar with Lutheran Worship it may help to know that page numbers in the bulletin’s order of worship are found at the bottom of the page in the hymnal, while hymn numbers are found at the top.

Concerning Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Anyone else wishing to receive a blessing may also come forward during this time. Simply cross your arms over your chest (heart) as the Pastor and Servers come near you and the Pastor will pronounce a blessing over you.

Phone If You Would Like to Receive Holy Communion

Pastor Tim is receiving up to six persons at a time to receive Holy Communion. Please call ahead on the Pastor’s Cell phone to set up a time to meet at the church for Holy Communion. We have cleared the nave and set up eight metal chairs, well spaced. With extra precautions we have minimized the threat of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Recording Services on Saturday

Pastor Tim and Leslie are welcoming four additional persons who would like to come in on Saturdays to record the Divine Service to be posted and ready to listen to on Sundays. Holy Communion is also administered to during this time. Please phone Pastor Tim if you would like to take a turn in helping us this valuable outreach to the rest of the congregation.

Today's Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister Leslie Duesenberg
 Reader Cole Warner
 Crucifer Kylee Kernan
 Acolyte Calvin Swaney
 Ushers Jeremy Schoonover
 Counters Cheryl Ruud/Mary Bartos
 Communion Assistant Jessica Schoonover
 Accompanist Tom Rislow
 Fellowship tba

May 17, 2020 Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister Jeremy Schoonover
 Reader Jessica Schoonover
 Crucifer Drew Staff
 Acolyte Dawson Staff
 Ushers Merlin Wangen
 Counters David Bjornstad/Jeremy Schoonover
 Communion Assistant Karri Bjornstad
 Accompanist Leslie Duesenberg
 Fellowship tba

May Attendance And Giving

	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Gen Giving</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Plus/Minus</u>	<u>Building</u>
May 01 0	\$1,560.00	\$2,046.00	(\$486.00)	\$60.00	
May 08					
May 15					
May 22					
May 29					
Running Total	\$1,560.00	\$2,046.00	(\$486.00)	\$60.00	
YTD Total	\$33,429.31	\$36,828.00	(\$3,398.69)	\$11,788.44	
					\$97,648.26

He is Lord; He is Lord;
 He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
 Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord.

First Lesson: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Before his conversion, the Apostle Paul who was then known as Saul, witnessed and approved the stoning of one of the first Christian martyrs.

The First Lesson is from the 6th and 7th chapters of Acts...

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

²And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me... ⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But [Stephen], full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

Psalmody: Psalm 146 (page 287)

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

As followers and believers in Christ we are being built upon the foundation that is Christ as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood.

The Second Lesson is from the 2nd chapter of 1st Peter...

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

Jesus prepares his followers and seeks to comfort them for his upcoming death, resurrection and ascension. Although there will be an absence from his physical presence, the disciples will carry on Jesus’ mission.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

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

Prayers of the Faithful

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, make the whole Church on earth into your house of living stones: holy, precious, your prized possession and beloved Body. Cause its words and deeds to proclaim the excellence of your salvation. Use it to call many people out of darkness into your marvelous light. We ask this especially for the Methodist Tradition of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Like Stephen, there are many even today who are persecuted and tortured for proclaiming you as Lord. Give them the grace and strength that you gave Stephen: to fearlessly speak your truth in love; to forgive and pray for their enemies; and to remain faithful to the end. We especially pray for Didi Panzo and the recovery of his sight. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we want to be your disciples, but are dismayed at the prospect of ridicule, rejection, or persecution. Give us grace to be like Stephen, always praying for others to repent and believe in you. Let us always build up faith in you alone, our Head and Cornerstone. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for calling to your service everyone in this congregation who supports the ministry of Word and Sacrament through their faithful work. Fill them with your Holy Spirit; prosper all they do to further the proclamation of the Gospel and the care of your people; and give them joy in serving you and your people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind the rulers of the nations that you alone are *King* of the nations. Humble them. Teach them to use the authority and power you give them: to care for the poor and needy, the widows and orphans, the imprisoned and oppressed, the hungry, blind, and homeless. We especially pray for our President, Donald Trump and our Governor, Tony Evers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide, protect, and strengthen all who defend life and liberty here and abroad. Prosper all their works that make for safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless, heal, comfort and sustain everyone who cries out to you for help. We especially pray for Birger Eklov, Cynthia Granger, Carol Halderson, Janet Sisul, Doris Stanke, Marge Wangen, Phil Webber, and those we now name before you... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Moment of silence for individual petitions and intercessions

Lord Jesus, we hear your promise at funerals: “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” Therefore we entrust into your keeping our beloved dead. Be for us, and for all whom you love, the Way to your Father’s house; the Truth which sets us free from bondage to sin, evil and death; and the Life which eternally transforms us into your likeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, Merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**