



Our Grief Will Turn to Joy

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of the Word

Painful circumstances are not joyful, but the readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter prove they can be useful or even necessary to bring about joyful circumstances. The joy of Jesus' resurrection does not erase the pain of his crucifixion. Instead, it enables us to see that pain in a new light and find joy in what would otherwise be a source of sorrow. That's good news for people who are afraid their painful circumstances will never end.

HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want | #371

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

There is a wide gulf between God in his holiness and us in our sinfulness. We put on clean clothes in the morning to come to church, but more importantly we need a clean heart in the presence of the Lord. So at the very beginning of our worship services, we lay down our burdens at the doorway before entering upon the praises of God.

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

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of his work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won | #353: v.1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray for joy in Christ's resurrection: Heavenly Father, Jesus promised that you will give us what we ask in his name. Above all, we ask that you give us joy in Christ's resurrection while we walk through this valley of sorrow, until the day he returns to make our joy complete in our own resurrections. We ask this in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HISTORY READING

Acts 14:8–18

Neither cold nature nor other gods desire or design joyful circumstances for people. Nature doesn't care, and other gods care only for themselves. But the God of the Bible does desire joy for others and works to provide it, even for those who do not know him.

⁸In Lystra there was a man who was sitting down because he had no strength in his feet. He had never walked because he was lame from birth. ⁹When he was listening to Paul as he was speaking, Paul looked at him closely and saw that he had faith to be healed. ¹⁰Paul said in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk.

¹¹When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form." ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the main speaker. ¹³The priest

of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and garlands to the city gates, because he wanted to offer sacrifices along with the crowds.

¹⁴But when the apostles Paul and Barnabas heard about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, ¹⁵“Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men with the same nature as you. We are preaching the good news to you so that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ¹⁶In past generations he allowed all the nations to go their own ways. ¹⁷Yet he did not leave himself without testimony of the good he does. He gives you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons. He fills you with food and fills your hearts with gladness.” ¹⁸Even though they said these things, they had a hard time stopping the crowds from sacrificing to them.

HYMN

Blessed Jesus at Thy Word | #1

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 21:21–27

Even though we experience circumstances of grief in this life, that is only temporary. The day will come when we will experience the joy of complete communion with God, complete safety from all enemies, and complete purity.

²¹The twelve gates are twelve pearls. Each of the gates is made out of one pearl. And the street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass.

²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God has given it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵There is no day when its gates will be shut, for there will be no night in that place. ²⁶They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷Nothing that is unclean and no one who does what is detestable or who tells lies will ever enter it, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice | #378: v.1, 7-8

SERMON

John 16:16-24

After delivery, we are not sad for a woman's painful labor but we congratulate her that her pain has caused circumstances of joy. The circumstances of Christ's crucifixion were painful but not sad, because of the great joy of his resurrection.

¹⁶"In a little while you are not going to see me anymore, and again in a little while you will see me, because I am going away to the Father."

¹⁷Therefore some of his disciples asked one another, "What does he mean when he tells us, 'In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going away to the Father'?" ¹⁸So they kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he's saying."

¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you trying to determine with one another what I meant by saying, 'In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me'?" ²⁰Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. ²¹A woman giving birth has pain, because her time has

come. But when she has delivered the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of her joy that a person has been born into the world.

²²“So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. ²³In that day you will not ask me anything.

Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask, and you will receive, so that your joy may be made complete.

What does this Bible text teach me to be thankful for?

What does this Bible text teach me to confess?

What does this Bible text teach me to ask for?

What does this Bible text teach me to do?

HYMN

Create in Me



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 your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

Jersuaalem the Golden | #534: 7-9, 14

PRAYER

P: Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart, so that by the patience and comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and always hold secure the blessed hope of everlasting life. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The notes are grouped into three measures: the first measure contains A4, B4, and C5; the second measure contains B4, A4, and G4; the third measure contains F#4, E4, and D4. The notes A4, B4, and C5 are beamed together, as are F#4, E4, and D4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Announcements

Send announcements to bulletin@kog-els.org.

CALL ACCEPTED

Pastor Wiechmann has accepted the call to serve the saints at Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, MN. He will preach his last sermon at King of Grace on Sun, 6/19. Thank God for his service to King of Grace and for future blessing at Peace.

SPRING PICNIC THANK YOU

Please thank the workers on our Membership Committee for organizing today's congregational picnic! We appreciate especially LaDonna DeLorme, David Josephitis, Paul Thomforde, Angela Batzlaff, Jared Smiley, Jamie DeLorme, and Randy Voelker.

CALL MEETING

Attend the meeting to extend a call to a new pastor for King of Grace after the second service on Sunday, 6/5, at 11:00 am.

VOTERS' MEETING

This past Tuesday, the voters' assembly

- elected board and committee members for the upcoming year,
- approved a \$1,900,000 budget for the upcoming fiscal year,
- approved \$9,700 in endowment fund requests.

VICAR ASSIGNED

Seminary student Max Kerr (wife Danica and children Aurelia and Rafael) has been assigned to King of Grace for the next school year. Please welcome him to our family and participate in training him to be a good pastor for his future congregation.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL JOB OPENING

Our high school is accepting applications for a part time Administrative Assistant. Please visit bit.ly/westadminpt for a full job description, or contact the West office via email office@westlutheran.net for more information. Applications will be accepted through May 31st.

Calendar

Today	11:00 am	Congregation picnic
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship service
	7:20 pm	Men's softball @ Centennial Park
Tuesday	9:30 am	Bible study
Wednesday	8:25 am	School chapel service
Friday	8:30 am	School closing service and awards ceremony
Saturday	8:30 am	Men's Bible study
	8:30 am	Women's coffee and crafts
Sunday	8:15 & 10:00 am	Communion service



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Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors: Aaron Ferkenstad and Ben Wiechmann | Principal: Allen Labitzky