



Great Expectations

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2019

6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com | Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors: Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Aaron Ferkenstad, & Ben Wiechmann | Principal: Allen Labitzky

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.

Service of the Word

The first three Sundays of Easter have looked back to the empty tomb of Easter morning. Beginning this week until Pentecost Sunday the lessons focus on our relationship with the Risen Christ through his Word. The Fourth Sunday of Easter every year is affectionately known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" and the image of sheep and shepherd is used in all three readings.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray you to open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | #177

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (8:15)

CONFESSION OF SIN (10:45)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed.

Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake 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 a 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.

ABSOLUTION (10:45)

P: Upon this your confession, by the authority of God, I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May he who has begun the good work in you perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

ANTHEM

The Triumphs of His Grace

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Prayer of the Day is a brief but significant prayer based on the assigned readings for the day. Its chief function is to prepare the mind for hearing the Scripture lessons. In this prayer, we come to our Lord to ask of him one special, significant blessing.

P: Let us pray that we follow our good shepherd: Loving God, we thank you that your Son Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for your people. Open our hearts to hear his voice, to know him as he calls us by name, and to follow wherever he leads. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HISTORY READING

Acts 20:17–32

Faithful pastors (Latin for ‘shepherds’) care for the church of God, which he acquired with his own blood. The power of God’s Word keeps his sheep safe from false teaching and encourages them in suffering.

¹⁷From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from

the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. ²⁰You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

²²“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

²⁵“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. ²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³²“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

SOLO

In Christ Alone

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 7:9–17

Christ alone has won salvation for his followers and has brought them through the great tribulation of life in this world to gather around his throne in praise. He is the Shepherd-Lamb who leads his people into eternity.

⁹After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God

and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

¹⁶Never again will they hunger;

never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat upon them,

nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;

he will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:45 SERVICE)

STATEMENT OF FAITH (8:15 SERVICE)

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 (8:15 SERVICE)

HYMN

O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe | #375

SERMON

Great Expectations | John 10:22–30

Jesus is the messianic shepherd-king promised by the Old Testament. He is the strongest power in the world, from whom no one can steal his sheep.

²²Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴The Jews gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

²⁵Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

OFFERING AND PRAYERS

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.**

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Almighty God, that you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head Cornerstone. Grant that we may be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable unto you, 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Confirmation Verses

JACOB BERGSTROM—ROMANS 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

MYA WALZ— JOHN 14:27

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let it be afraid.

KATHERINE GUILLAUME—JOHN 6:68–69

Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.

JORDAN ZIEGLER—1 JOHN 3:1

See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him.

JOSEPH LONGEN—1 CORINTHIANS 16:13–14

Keep alert. Stand firm in the faith. Demonstrate manly courage. Be strong. Let everything you do be done in love.

ALEXANDRA WIEBESICK—PSALM 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation —whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life —of whom shall I be afraid?

Announcements

FAREWELL

Come next Sunday at 9:30 to celebrate and wish Godspeed to Mrs. Amy Sehloff, our 8th grade teacher; Mrs. Deb Hammond, our music teacher; and Mrs. Polly Potratz, our administrative assistant.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

We welcome a new Christian into our family this morning. Hudson Juul Browning was born on April 18 and born again on April 22 through the waters of holy Baptism. Standing at the font this morning with his parents, Alex and Leigh, are Katie Roeber, Jake Browning, and Kelsey Jensen.

WORLD NEEDS FUND

Our ELS annually collects an offering on Mother's Day for the World Needs Fund, used in disaster relief efforts around the world. Offering envelopes are on the desk in the entrance and you can give your gift at King of Grace next week.

VOTERS' MEETING

The annual voters' meeting is Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00. Voters will approve next year's budget, elect board and committee members, and extend teacher calls.

FLOWERS

The parents of our confirmands have given roses today in thanksgiving to our Lord for our children and for the precious gift of God's Word that we are able to teach and share.

Flowers are also given by John and Jennell Magnuson in celebration of their 15th wedding anniversary.

Between services, the New Day Resource Center is selling cut flowers and plants. Their work provides for many needs of families with children.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Our high school's choir and band will perform a pops concert, "A Night at the Movies," this Friday, May 17, at 7pm.

THANK YOU

The family of Orla Petersen extends their thanks to the family at King of Grace for your prayers, cards, and good wishes during her final months and at her transfer to the Church Triumphant.

RECIPES

Copies of the delicious soup recipes served during our Lenten dinners are available on the Pioneers bulletin board near the church kitchen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact Wanda Warnke with prayer requests at (612) 529-1497.

Attendance Last Week: 363 worshiped on Sunday and 15 worshiped on Monday.

Offerings Last Week:

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154

Received Last Week: \$18,779

Average Needed Year to Date: \$726,930

Received Year to Date: \$781,410

Calendar

Sunday	9:30 am	Bible studies
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Service
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Tuesday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	KOG Band Concert
	6:30 pm	School Board
	7:00 pm	Voters' Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Grades 7 & 8 Theatre Production
Thursday	9:45 am	King's Littlest Kids
	6:30 pm	Grades 7 & 8 Theatre Production
Saturday	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 am	Girl Pioneers Outdoor Day Camp
Sunday	9:30 am	Farewell Reception

Preacher	Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad		Liturgist	Rev. Ben Wiechmann
Soloist	Jennifer Babos		Hymn accompanist	Roy Broberg
Organist	Karen Merseth		Choir Director	Allen Labitzky
Pianist (Monday)	Jenny Merseth			

Counters Today	Deb Anderson, Beth & Jerry Hoem
Counters Next Sunday	Polly & Nathan Potratz, Carol & Ken Johnson
Usher Captains Today	Tom Studanski, Curtis Merchant
Usher Captains Next Sunday	Steve Kopacek, Loren Braun
Video Team Today	Ben Oppitz, Jason Luxford
Video Team Next Sunday	TBD
Coffee Clean Up Today	Board of Trustees
Coffee Setup Next Sunday	King's Daughters
Coffee Clean Up Next Sunday	Board of Elders
May Altar Guild	Kathy Reason & Anne Bechtold