

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

**“I am the vine;  
you are the  
branches. If a  
man remains in  
me and I in him,  
he will bear much  
fruit; apart from me  
you can do nothing.”**

**John 15:5**

10:00 AM Worship

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
May 6, 2012



# PRESERVICE MUSIC

**At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing**

*Setting by Michael Burkhardt*

## YOUTH CONFIRMATION SERVICE

**WELCOME**

**HYMN**

**Alleluia! Jesus Lives**  
*Christian Worship #153*

*STAND*

**INVOCATION**

**MINISTER:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**CONGREGATION:** Amen.

**CONFESSION**

**M:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**  
**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**  
**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**  
**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**  
**You should cast me away from your presence forever.**  
**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

**ABSOLUTION**

**M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray. O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

*BE SEATED*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

**Acts 16:11-15**

From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered

there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

**1 John 3:18-24**

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey

his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

## HYMN

**Chief of Sinners Though I Be**  
*Christian Worship #385*

## SERMON

**John 15:1-8**  
**Remain in Jesus**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains

in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

*(PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AFTER THE SERMON)*

**OFFERING** *Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.*

*Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!*

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

Sent Forth By God's Blessing  
*Welsh Folk Tune*

STAND

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—EASTER

**M:** God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in your Son. By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one and only true faith.

Preserve us from all assaults on our souls, deliver us from doubt and despair, and preserve us from worldly wisdom and false teaching.

Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and faithless. Bring back the forgetful and wayward, and comfort the anxious and the distressed.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** As we go from this holy place today, grant peace and rest to us all. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

DUET

**I Am the Vine**  
*By Allen Pote*

### RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND CONFESSIONS OF FAITH

*Each confirmand will read a brief essay that he has prepared.*

*The confirmands' essays serve as an expression of their knowledge of and faith in God and His Word, and they also benefit us all as a review of some fundamental truths of Scripture. Please join in singing the hymn stanzas as indicated (hymn # 597, "May God the Father of Our Lord").*

**Tori Margaret Johnson**

**"Why the Ten Commandments are Important to Me"**

(sing) 1. May God the Father of our Lord,  
Who called you by his holy Word,  
Perfect, establish, settle you,  
Keep you through faith forever true.

**Analiase Michelle Kincade**

**“Why the Lord’s Prayer is Important to Me”**

2. In Jesus Christ may you be blessed  
And brought to his eternal rest.  
The work he has in you begun,  
He will perform till all is done.

**Sarah Ellen Oberhofer**

**“Why Holy Baptism is Important to Me”**

3. The Holy Spirit give you pow’r,  
The strength of prayer in ev’ry hour,  
The wisdom, knowledge, fear of God,  
That lifts above his chast’ning rod.

**James Matthew Pauley**

**“Why Holy Communion is Important to Me”**

4. May God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Preserve you blameless till in Grace  
You stand before his holy face.

**CONFIRMANDS’ CONFESSION AND PROMISE**

**MINISTER:** Brother and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In obedience to the Lord’s command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord’s body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

**MINISTER:** Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

**CONFIRMANDS:** I do.

**M:** Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**C:** I do.

- M:** Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?  
**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
 I believe 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 will 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.
- M:** Do you desire to become a communicant member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and of this congregation?  
**C:** I do.
- M:** Do you believe all the canonical books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?  
**C:** I do.
- M:** Do you believe that the teaching of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as you have learned to know it from Luther’s Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?  
**C:** I do.
- M:** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?  
**C:** I do, and I ask God to help me.
- M:** Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God’s Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?  
**C:** I do, and I ask God to help me.
- M:** Now give your hand at the Lord’s altar as a pledge of your promise and receive his blessing.

***Confirmation Blessings***

- M:** Your church now welcomes you into communicant membership, with all the rights, benefits, and responsibilities that this entails, and invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord’s body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord’s Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

- M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

- M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C:** **Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*The Confirmands and their family members from Grace will commune first.*

*Our church practices “Member Communion.” If you are a guest today and are a confirmed member of another WELS church, we invite you to the Lord’s Table with us. If you are a guest today and are not a member of one of our Wisconsin Synod churches, we ask that you would speak to one of the pastors after church today or at some other time to discuss receiving the Lord’s Supper with us in the future.*

*We provide **gluten-free communion wafers** for those with wheat allergy, gluten-sensitivity or celiac disease. These wafers are stored and handled separately to avoid cross-contamination. They are “bread” as Scripture requires and are consecrated along with the rest of the bread. For those requiring gluten-free wafers, please take one from the container on the stand located at the front rail as you approach for communion. Simply hold it so that the pastor can see it at the time of distribution.*

***Grape juice** is available for those who for health or medical reason require it instead of wine. Please speak with a pastor about providing grape juice for you on future Sundays.*

## **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared**  
*Christian Worship #312*

**STAND**

### **PRAYER**

**M:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **Amen.**

**BE SEATED**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening**  
*Christian Worship #283*

**THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

**Worship Leader** .....Pastor Nathan Kassulke  
**Communion Assistants** .....Pastor Ron Koehler, Pastor Sam Clemons, Pastor Hallemeyer  
**Accompanist** .....Tina Christianson  
**Duet** .....Beth Kassulke, Kathy Parra  
**Ushers**.....Rick Street, Ed Ethington, Joe Dyjak, Nathanael Dyjak, AJ Di Domizio, Jon Dongoske  
**Sound & Recording Tech** .....Jeff Weinstein





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**To Aid You in Worship...**

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. ASK A GREETER OR USHER FOR A COPY.
- *For those with young children:* A private Mother's Room is located across the courtyard in the Ladies' Restroom. Parents of young children may also use the Child Care Room in the basement at any time to quiet and care for them (the service can be heard in both locations).
- Sermon copies & service CDs are available in the narthex.

# Welcome to Grace!

**Our mission at Grace** is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

## Holy Communion

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p.156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. Guests and visitors, please see p. 6 in today's bulletin under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

**Altar flowers** have been given by the families of the confirmands.

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**Read Ahead for Next Sunday:**

Acts 9:36-42  
1 John 4:1-11  
John 15:9-17

**Next Sun. Sermon Text & Theme:**

Acts 9:36-42  
*The Funeral That Almost Was*

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## Congratulations!

Congratulations to our youth confirmands, Tori Johnson, Analiese Kincade, Sarah Oberhofer, and James Pauley. The congregation is invited to celebrate this special occasion in the lives of our young people with a cake reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

## Upcoming Voters' Meeting

The next voters' meeting is **Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 PM**. Pastor and Council reports can be found at both exits and in the Fellowship Hall. The report keeps members informed and helps voters prepare for the meeting.

## Christian Fellowship Group

The Christian Fellowship Group will meet this Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 AM in the Grace-University Fellowship Hall. Grace member and TPD police officer, DJ Miller, will be our guest speaker and will talk about "home security tips." Please come with any questions for him. You are also asked to bring a healthy snack to share. We hope you will join us! *The Christian Fellowship Group provides people 55 and older with an opportunity to enjoy the company of others on a very informal basis.*

## May Women's Night Out!

Mark your calendar for the **Women of Grace Night Out** at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 22. This year's event will be at the **Macaroni Grill** at 5100 E. Broadway Blvd. RSVP by May 20 to Debbie Koehler 293-5617 or Teri Guenther 235-1177. If you plan to attend, there is Scrip available for the restaurant. Be sure to bring a friend and join us for an evening of Christian fellowship. You don't want to miss this enjoyable event and guests are welcome!

## This Week's Schedule (5/6/12 - 5/13/12)

### Today **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

- Worship Services .....7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School .....8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class .....8:45a
- Adult Bible Studies:
  - *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Teaching* (Fellowship Hall) ...9:00a
  - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) .....9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* .....9:00a
- Grace-Vail Bible Study at Cottonwood Elementary** .....9:00a
- Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary** ..... 10:00a
- Cake Reception Following 10 AM Worship.....
- WELS Tucson Campus Ministry: *Finals Cookout!* ..... 6:00p

### Monday

- Bible Study at Vail Golf Club: Book of Acts** .....9:30a
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

### Tuesday

- Handbells ..... 5:30p
- English as a Second Language Classes..... 6:30p

### Wednesday

- Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* ..... 10:00a
- Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* ..... 7:00p
- Bible Study at the Prigge's: *Prepared to Answer*** ..... 7:00p

### Thursday

- Women's Bible Study: *Genesis*.....9:00a
- NO** Worship Choir .....
- Men's Bible Study..... 7:30p

### Saturday

- Vail Canvassing Blitz in Rita Ranch** .....9:00a
- Christian Fellowship Group..... 10:00a

### Sunday

- Worship Services .....7:45 & 10:00a
- Children's Sunday School .....8:45a
- Youth Confirmation Class .....8:45a
- Adult Bible Studies:
  - *The Life of Christ: Jesus' Teaching* (Fellowship Hall) ...9:00a
  - *Grow in Grace Class* (Conference Room in Office) .....9:00a
- Lifeliners (High School Group): *Bible Study* .....9:00a
- Grace-Vail Bible Study at Cottonwood Elementary** .....9:00a
- Grace-Vail Service at Cottonwood Elementary** ..... 10:00a
- Coffee Fellowship following 10 AM Worship.....

**Grace is looking for volunteers who are interested in driving the Grace van on Sunday mornings. Please call the church office for more information at 623-6633.**

## Vacation Bible School

Get in the time machine and travel back to Jerusalem and other biblical sites at our "Back to Jerusalem" Vacation Bible School! Along the way, we'll learn that God's message to us about his love for us never changes. Each day devotions, songs, and crafts reinforce the lessons. So, gather up your children, nieces, nephews and friends in the neighborhood and bring them to Grace for time-travel fun! VBS is June 18-22, 9:00-11:30 AM. More information and registration forms are available online or in the Grace-University Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with VBS, please speak to our coordinator, Cindy Breitreitz (298-9758) or to Pastor Kassulke. Donations for Vacation Bible School are also appreciated.

## Church Picnic

Please plan to join us at Grace-University on Sunday, June 24 after the 10:00 AM worship service for our annual Church Picnic. The June 24 worship service will also serve as our VBS closing service. Members of Grace are asked to bring a side dish and a dessert to share. Grace will provide grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. Volunteer help is also needed.

**Since this is our first Church Picnic since the launch of our second site, we are encouraging members of Grace to attend worship at Grace-Vail on June 24 (also at 10:00), to help tear-down and clean up after the service, and then to join us for food and fellowship at the Picnic.**

## Canvassing this Saturday

There is canvassing for Grace-Vail this Saturday, May 12, starting at 9:00 AM. This is a great way to share information about our second site and also a way to share the love of Christ. We will be meeting at Cottonwood Elementary School (9950 E. Rees Loop) at 9:00 AM this Saturday.



As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**GALATIANS 6:10**

*Grace invites its members to “Do Good” by following the Apostle Paul’s encouragement to help others. Gifts of clothing, food and household items will assist those in need on the Apache reservation, children in our Lutheran schools, and others in our own community. Please consider how you might “Do Good!”*



**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

**APACHE LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

Your donations of gently used clothing are received on Sunday mornings after worship at the counseling building behind the church at Grace-University. These will help our Apache brothers and sisters in Christ on the reservation. Other drop off times may be coordinated through Russ and Sandy Weir (795-0062), Cinda Drescher (615-6059), Geri DeRosa (615-6059), or Bill & Dorothy Rauh (296-8840). Grace’s Christian Fellowship Group coordinates this effort.



Donations of toys, household items and clothing collected here in Tucson will be taken to the Lutheran Thrift Store in Phoenix. Proceeds from the store support Arizona Lutheran Academy, our high school in Phoenix. Jeff Weinstein can be contacted about receiving items you would like to donate (909-7649).



**Community Food Bank  
of Southern Arizona**



Grace has supported the Food Bank for many years. Those wishing to donate boxed and canned food items may leave them in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall under the greeting card table. Monetary donations may also be made through your regular offering envelopes by simply writing the dollar amount and “Food Bank” on the envelope.

