

# Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.  
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147  
www.grace-salisbury.com



## **5th Sunday of Easter**

May 3rd, 2026

- + Ministers: The People of Grace +  
+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +  
gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +  
graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +  
gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Secretary Terri Brown +  
gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Director of Music Lynn Lippard +
- + Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +  
+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +  
+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +  
+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ Those who are able please stand.  
(Congregation responses are printed in bold type)

LBW = Green book  
WOV = Blue book

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### + THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### + GATHERING HYMN

#### “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

WOV#747



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful all the gifts they  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
ask to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



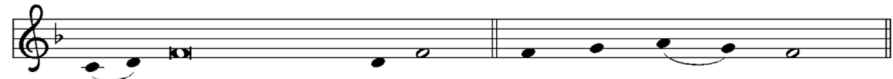
help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

**+ GREETING**

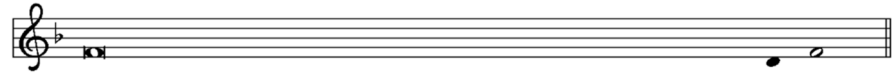
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you**

**+ KYRIE**



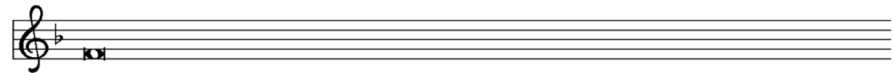
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



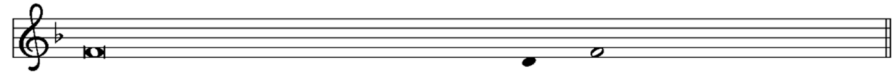
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



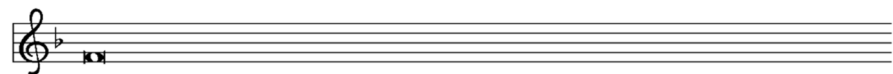
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



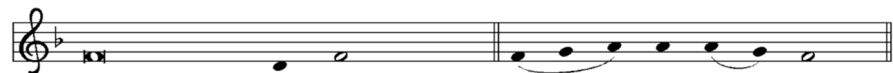
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



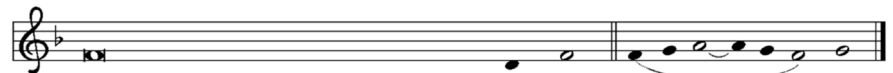
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

**+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## + SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## + PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand;**

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once 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.**

**+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**<sup>1+</sup> GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do 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, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>2</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Tony Lippard**



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

**+APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Steadfast God, you have never abandoned your promise to be with your people, be present to us now.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

. Lift us up, we pray, and help us to be the people we were created to be that we might fulfil your dream for our human family.

**Amen.**

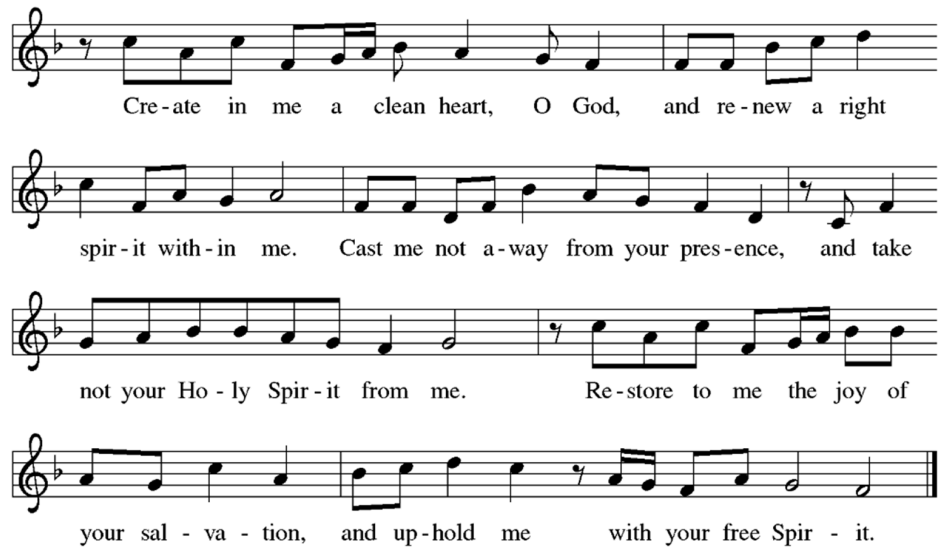
**+ SHARING THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### + OFFERTORY SONG



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 to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

### + OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

### + COMMUNION FROM A RESERVED SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this Bread and this Wine which have been consecrated and have become for us the Body and the Blood of Christ. **Blessed be God forever.**

When this congregation last gathered for Holy Communion, we were reminded that on the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord, Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

**Thanks be to God.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION** – All of God’s children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

**+ TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

**Amen.**

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together....

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**+ BENEDICTION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
 rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
 things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;  
 bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!”



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song  
 Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -  
 grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives  
 Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”  
 ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
 we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
 most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**+ DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Setting 3 ELW

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<u>Serving 5/3/2026</u>		<u>Serving 5/10/2026</u>	
<b>Organist</b>	Teresa Yost	<b>Organist</b>	Becky Lippard
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Myra Sechler	<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Heather Basinger
<b>Lector</b>	S. Tim Sloop	<b>Lector</b>	Dan Roseman
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Sarah Nolan, Shelly Hunter	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Sarah Nolan, Pam Roseman
<b>Acolyte</b>	Annalyn Kluttz	<b>Acolyte</b>	Hunter Ritchie
<b>Security Team</b>	Tony Sechler, Lynn Aldridge	<b>Security Team</b>	Randy Basinger, Duane Nolan
<b>Sound System</b>	Jamey Basinger	<b>Sound System</b>	Luke Bame
<b>Teller Team</b>	Duane Nolan, Tara Mills, Mary Sloop	<b>Teller Team</b>	Duane Nolan, Tara Mills, Mary Sloop
<b>Ushers</b>	Scottie & Monica Basinger, Connor & Baker	<b>Ushers</b>	Scottie & Monica Basinger, Connor & Baker

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God.

**WELCOME** to Lay Pastor Tony Lippard who will lead us in worship today.

**SAVE THE DATE OF JUNE 13** for the Myles Davis Pope Memorial 5K to help fund swim lessons. We are looking for volunteers and sponsors. Please see Morgan or Sonny Pope for more details.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** will be May 17. A covered dish meal will be served in their honor following the worship service. We have 8 confirmands, our largest group in many years!

**VBS HELPERS NEEDED** Please let Sarah know if you are willing to help with Vacation Bible School June 19 or 20th. Needs include: a leader for games and shepherds to walk kids to each rotation. Thank you!

**ORGAN DEDICATION** will be on Sunday May 31 at 4:00pm.

**BELLS OF LAKE NORMAN** will present "Hymns & Headbangers" at Grace Church on Saturday, May 9th at 4:00pm.

**CIRCLE OF HOPE** will have devotions at Trinity Oaks on May 6 at 6:00pm. The Children's Choir will present a singing program and Sheila will have a devotion.

This Week's Giving 04/26/2026		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Attendance 164			
Current	\$ 8,868.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 60)	\$ 51.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	\$ 60.00		
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	\$ 25.00		
Benevolence	\$ 120.00		
World Hunger	\$ 50.00		
Total Current	\$ 9,174.00	\$ 8,251.00	\$ 923.00
Myles for Mission 5k	\$ 325.00		
Kids to Camp Endowment	\$ 825.00		
Building Fund	\$ 100.00		
Kids of Grace	\$ 50.00		
Total Deposit	\$ 10,474.00		

Scan here for online giving.



### Prayer List

#### Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Monica Crossen, Allen Sloop

#### Community Concerns:

Scout & Skylar Harmon (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Kassana Alexander, Sandy Whitaker, Christine Whitaker (*Pastor Josh*), Pastor David Drysdale (*Pastor Josh*), Lynn Potter (*Emily Copeland*), Daylin Cline age 11 (*son of James & Glenda Bibbins Cline*)

#### Comfort:

Family and friends of Linda Linker

Family and friends of Cathy Leary

#### Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Ray Baker

#### Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families; Rowan Salisbury Schools teachers, staff and administrators