

EASTER FESTIVAL

APRIL 5, 2026



**HE LIVES TO TAKE ME
FROM DEATH TO LIFE**



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

5600 West Paltaire Ave
Glendale, Arizona 85301
tel: 623-937-2010
email: info@graceglendale.org
web: <https://www.graceglendale.org>



WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

Rev. Mark Jacobson	x321
pastorjacobson@graceglendale.org	
Rev. Jasper Sellnow	x303
pastorsellnow@graceglendale.org	
Principal Joel Walker	x302
jwalker@graceglendale.org	
Office Manager, Debbie Petersen	x322
officemanager@graceglendale.org	
School Office Manager, Monica Assaker	x326
massaker@graceglendale.org	
Church Secretary	
secretary@graceglendale.org	

AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Jacobson

Liturgist: Pastor Sellnow

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Cash & Eoghan Hill

10:30 AM – Nash & Owen Beilke

Organist: Jeff Wegner

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Jon Scheel / Mark Breiling

10:30 AM – Sam Jacobson

ABOUT THE THEME

Without the resurrection of Jesus, death would appear permanent. No one would have come back from the dead to explain what happens after death. Jesus told his disciples what would happen. But they were slow to believe the Easter truth. God ensured that his people had witnesses to assure that Jesus did not remain dead. He lives, and it makes a difference! I too shall live. Death has become a pathway into paradise. Jesus has already made me spiritually alive by giving me faith in his resurrection. In every possible way, Jesus takes me from death to life.

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

SERVICE INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

ADULT CHOIR & CONGREGATION

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

You may follow along with the screens to join in singing with the choir.

Please stand

OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done!

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

By his resurrection Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power!

And He has given us a new birth into a living hope.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel, “for you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.”

“He is not here! He has risen!”

“Do not be afraid,” says Jesus. “I am the First and the Last, the Living One!
“**I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!**”

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

CONFESSION

O Almighty Creator God, you created life, you had the power to restore Jesus to life, you gave life to me. Surely my life should be spent in service to you! Yet I have often failed to serve you, and have stubbornly resisted your will for my life. **Have mercy on me, O God, for I have sinned! I have failed to love you. I have failed to love my neighbor. Surely I deserve your punishment both now and forever. Have mercy on me, O God!**

ABSOLUTION

God did not forsake us in our sin. Jesus came to live for us and to die for us. Yet if Christ were not raised, we would still remain in our sins.
But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, take heart! Jesus has removed your guilt forever! His death paid for your sins. His resurrection proves it. Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Where O death is your victory, where O grave, is your sting?
Our God has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

At peace with God through our risen Savior, we join to praise his holy name!

SONG OF PRAISE

CW 461

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled is
God, my Lord; the gates of heav'n are o - pen.

My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, and Sa - tan's ar - rows
bro - ken lie, de - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, ris - ing glo - rious,
life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Jonah 2:2–9

Jesus compared himself to the Old Testament prophet who escaped death after three days in the belly of a fish.

²He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

³You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.

⁴I said, ‘I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.’

⁵The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.
But you, LORD my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

⁷“When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, LORD,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

⁸“Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God’s love for them.

⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.

¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CW 470 st. 2

2 Thanks to you, O Christ vic - to - rious! Thanks to you, O
 Lord of life! Death has now no pow - er o'er us, you have
 con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause you did a -
 rise and have o - pened par - a - dise! None can



ful - ly sing the glo - ry of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text and tune: Public domain

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1–10

The account of Christ's Easter victory.

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN: CHRIST JESUS LAY IN DEATH'S STRONG BANDS CW 440 sts. 1–6

SERMON

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.

Special Intercessions

Risen Savior, feed our faith daily with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and in Sacraments to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you and all believers in eternal glory.

Amen.

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

HYMN: JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON

CW 444

Please stand

PRAYER

Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy this day, for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds. Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Send us forth this day with the peace of forgiveness and the confidence of eternal life in heaven.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN: HE'S RISEN, HE'S RISEN

CW 445

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ _____
2. H → ↑ → _____
3. V ↑ → ↓ _____
4. I ← ← ↑ _____
5. T ↑ ← ↑ _____
6. P ↑ → → ↓ _____
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ _____
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← _____



Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Answer: new birth



Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

“You only live once.” Wrong! How many people do you know who have lived twice?

What comfort can you take from “according to the Scriptures” in this text?

What comfort can you take from the eye-witnesses of Christ's resurrection?

Explain: The resurrection is the foundation for our gospel ministry at Grace.

What do you think Paul meant by saying he worked harder than the other apostles? What would do you imagine this working harder might look like for you?
