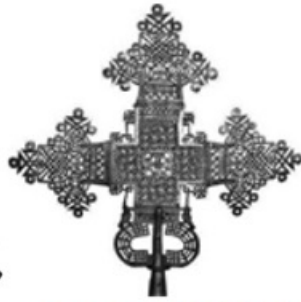


Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: *Bethel & Zion*

Love is spoken here! Be the living Eucharist!



Third Sunday of Easter

April 19th, 2026

8:45 AM Zion
10:30 AM Bethel

All are welcome!

The altars of this parish belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of the Way of Jesus.

We live into the ongoing revelation of Jesus! There is a place for you, here!

We Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us in community as people of the Way.

PRELUDE

The congregation stands

GREETING

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

In the name of the † Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us pray; Almighty Father, who in Your great Mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his Presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve You continually in righteousness and Truth; through Jesus Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen!**

GATHERING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

ELW (red book) 377

The congregation is seated

We listen to God's Word

God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching & song.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (Tanakh): Isaiah 51:1-6 from *The Message**

The enduring foundation of God's salvation.

¹⁻³ "Listen to me, all you who are serious about right living and committed to seeking GOD. Ponder the rock from which you were cut, the quarry from which you were dug. Yes, ponder Abraham, your father, and Sarah, who bore you.

Think of it! One solitary man when I called him, but once I blessed him, he multiplied. Likewise, I, GOD, will comfort Zion, comfort all her mounds of ruins. I'll transform her dead ground into Eden, her moonscape into the garden of GOD, a place filled with exuberance and laughter, thankful voices and melodic songs.

⁴⁻⁶ "Pay attention, my people. Listen to me, nations. Revelation flows from me. My decisions light up the world. My deliverance arrives on the run, my salvation right on time. I'll bring justice to the peoples. Even faraway islands will look to me and take hope in my saving Power.

Look up at the skies, ponder the earth under your feet. The skies will fade out like smoke, the earth will wear out like work pants, and the people will die off like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my setting-things-right will never be obsolete.

Response Word of God, Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 116 *interpretation by The Rev. Christine Robinson*

read responsively

My love is for God, who knows me and hears my voice when I cry out.

**When the grip of fears and anxieties take hold of me,
when I come to grief and sorrow, I call on God and find relief.**

Rest, O my soul, relax. God is with you.

God has given your life meaning, soothed your sufferings, and guided your feet.

Walk in God's Presence in the land of the living even when you are very low.

Even when trust is hard. call on God's name. Fulfill your promise. Be grateful. Lighten up. Sing.

The assembly stands to welcome our resurrected Lord!

***Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.
Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.***

Preface Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus according to Luke! ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 24:13-35 from the *NRSVUE**

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Response The gospel of our Lord! ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

COLLECT

Let us pray; Risen Jesus, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. ***Amen!***

The congregation is seated

MESSAGE

Pastor Andrew

The congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day of Arising

ELW 374

The congregation is seated

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his Love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in the Power of Jesus' resurrection to heal and redeem all things, let us pray for the needs of all.

A brief silence.

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Almighty God, You provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick (*especially*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Gracious One, You have made us Your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in Your name. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Eternal Light, we give thanks for (*Olavus Petri, Laurentius Petri and*) all who have nurtured Your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of Your glorious Presence. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Lord of the church:

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve You with joy for ever. Amen.

The congregation stands

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

When we cry out to the Lord in our trouble, ***we will find deliverance from our distress.***

God will bring us out of darkness ***and out of the shadow of death.***

At times, our selfishness betrays you. Lord, have Mercy. ***Lord, have Mercy.***

We fail in persistently ministering to friends, family and strangers out of the storehouse of Grace and Mercy that you provide. Christ, have Mercy. ***Christ, have Mercy.***

We can be afraid of being known to follow *the Way* you have taught. Lord, have Mercy. ***Lord, have Mercy.***

May the Father who sent the Son into the world to save humanity from its errors, bring us † pardon and peace, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, ***and the wonders he does for his children.***

Let us offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving ***and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.***

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with us always! ***And also with you!***

We share in God's Holy Communion

God feeds us with Jesus' risen Presence!

GATHERING OF GIFTS

choir (Auburn)

OFFERTORY

ELW 182

As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our ta-ble with Your Pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: 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!***

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you! ***And also with you!*** Open up your hearts! ***We open them up to the Lord!***

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! ***It is right to give God thanks and praise!***

Most merciful Lord, Your Love compels us to come in. Our hands have been unclean, our hearts are not fully prepared; we are not fit even to eat the crumbs from under Your table. But You, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share Your bread with sinners.

So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of Your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in Your kingdom.

We pray You, Gracious God, to send Your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to Your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable in Your sight, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

On his last night with the disciples...

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under Your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all Your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of Your daughters and sons; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. ***Amen.***

THE 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord. ***Amen.***

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

ELW pg. 154

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, grant us peace.

THE EUCHARIST

Bread is distributed to the hand by the pastor. individual pre-filled cups of grape juice or wine may be taken from the silver trays: the inner-most ring on each tray is the grape juice.

A gluten-free alternative is available from the Assisting Minister.

Believing in the real presence of Christ, Grace practices open-table, Eucharistic hospitality.

All people, baptized or not, are welcomed to The Meal.

Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing signified by crossed arms..

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 491

POST EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us pray; Living God, Your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

We go out to serve God

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless us now and for ever. ***Amen.***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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*Scripture translations are in the public domain and sourced through <http://www.biblegateway.com>

IN OUR PRAYERS: Donald Tremblay, Rose Marie Faragoli, Donna Brunnell, Russ Terrien, Tom Toepfner, Sandy Staples, Jim Mooney, Karen Carlson, Judy Garneau, Paul Josephson, Edla Bloom, Steve Hynes, Dennis, Peter & Georgia Kosciusko, Tony Genga, Henry Lewis, Glenna Brownell, Joan Bejune, Billy Rogan, Don & Judy Leombruno, Mark Glandville, Jack Fenton, Mark Stevens, Jill Ducat, Jim Mahoney, Tami Briggs, Amy Runge, Heather Gregar, Kenneth Johnson, Lois Kane, Beth Johnson, Pr. Judy L., Gary Kaufman, Betty Jane Weagle, Valerie Cotter, Judy Sawicki, Anne Berberian, Carol Katagher. Julie Dawes, Elaine Peterson, David and Madeline Nevard, Louise Young, Lina Dickey, Courtney Cronin, Theresa Adams, JoAnne Van Dyke, Cherry Harris, Kristen Woods

NOTE REGARDING SCRIPTURE USAGE: *Our denomination is an exegetical (Spirit-led) tradition in that we preach and teach according to the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of recommended texts primarily used within main-line denominations as inspiration; Eastern and Western rites of Catholicism use a variant. As such, Church of England second and third service texts within the RCL are also valid. The Book of Q (Sayings Gospel), The Gospel of Thomas and The Gospel of Mary Magdalene may also be used when their material is found to be more historically accurate to what scholarship has uncovered as the way Jesus would have addressed his disciples and hearers against what the canonical writers adjusted/append at times for the teaching of their ancient congregations.*

Music for April 19, 2026

Prelude: “Choral” by Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Postlude: “Awake, Thou Wintry Earth” by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Anthem: “Lift Your Voices Rejoicing” words by Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1828-1896)

Music by Thomas Foster (b. 1938)

Today’s Music: The text for today’s anthem is a Latin text translated into English by Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1828-1896) with music by contemporary American composer Thomas Foster (b.1939). Elizabeth Charles is best known for her 1862 book on Martin Luther as well as several hymn texts. Thomas Foster is a Boston-based composer and harpsichordist. Today’s postlude is an Easter chorale from a Bach cantata with a distinctive accompaniment which proceeds the chorale tune.

ONGOING SERIES – 2nd SUNDAYS - BEING LUTHERAN

New/prospective member/current member refresher session

From 9 – 10 AM, at Bethel in his office, Pastor Andrew will host an ongoing participative discussion on what it means to be an ELCA Lutheran amidst the other denominational understandings amongst Jesus followers.

Please speak with Pastor Andrew, or let Ann know, if you plan to attend a session.

Meal Lines

May 3rd, Noon to 3 PM

Voosen Hall @ Bethel

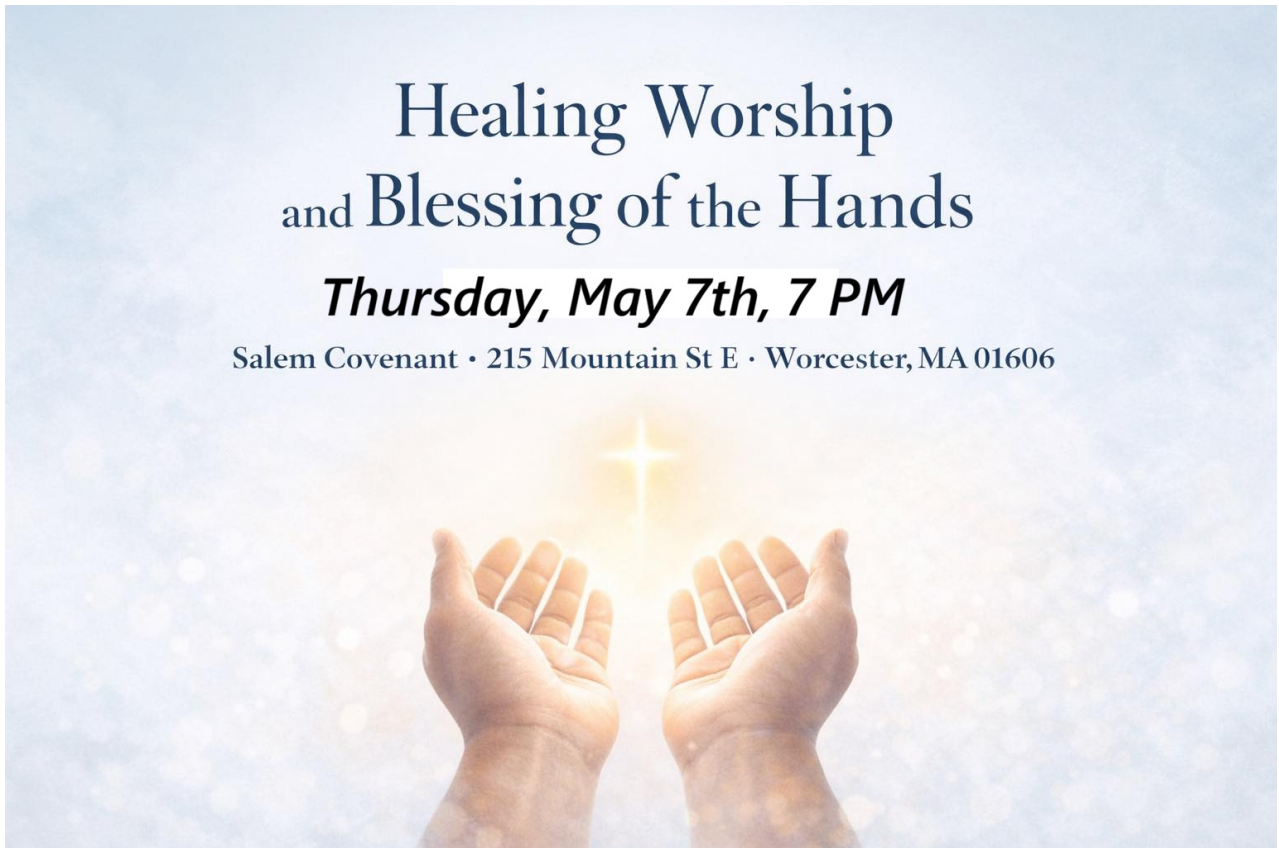
Make checks out to: The Outreach Program



Healing Worship and Blessing of the Hands

Thursday, May 7th, 7 PM

Salem Covenant • 215 Mountain St E • Worcester, MA 01606



Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: *Bethel & Zion*

MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor
pastor_andrew.b@verizon.net

Ann Spinner, Parish Administrator
bethelauburn@verizon.net

Main Office: 508-832-3427
grace-lutheran-elca.org

Randy Bloom – Minister of Music **Lois Toepfner**, Deacon – Minister of Music Emeritus

Shannon Papandrea - Sexton

Garret Peters - Treasurer

Kate Valleli – Christian Education Coordinator

Adam Hanks – Bell Director

Ann Spinner, Kate Valleli – Financial Secretaries

Marie Sturdevant, Adam Hanks – Lay Worship Leaders: NES Lay School of Theology: Auburn 8 AM, Worcester 2nd Sundays

Parish Council

President – **Dave Valleli (B)** Co-Vice-Presidents – **Jennifer Courtney (Z)**, **Jessica Caminero (B)**

Council – **Dave Spinner (Z)**, **Ruth Thompson (B)**, **Joan Parker (B)**, **LeAnne Carraher Virginia Carlson, (Z)**, **Adam Hanks (B)**, **Donna Hayes (Z)**

Worcester Campus - Zion Lutheran
41 Whitmarsh Avenue, 01606

Auburn Campus - Bethel Lutheran
90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, 01501

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



NST
Refugee Accompaniment



Grace  Lutheran
Café

