

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.  
P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN #469: "Welcome, Happy Morning"** - see slides

**SERMON: "Remain Connected to Jesus!"**

**John 15:1-8**

1. Don't take the connection for granted.
2. Show appreciation for that connection.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** (page 181) - see slides

**OFFERING PRESENTATION - HYMN #461** - see slide

**EASTER PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** (spoken responsively) - see slides

**HYMN #595: "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"** - see slides

**PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING** - see slides

**CLOSING HYMN: #454: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"** - see slides

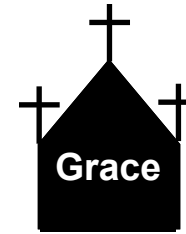
*Guest Preacher: Pastor Greg Bey*

*Worship Music Leader: Amibeth Olderman*

*Thank you to all who served in our worship service today!*

*Last Week's Attendance*

*Sunday 8:00 – 60; 10:45 – 36; Monday: 26; Total: 122*



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**Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am, Mondays 6:30pm**



**RESURRECTION REALITY**  
**"THE LIVING LORD PRODUCES ACTIVE FAITH"**

**April 28 & 29 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## “THE LIVING LORD PRODUCES ACTIVE FAITH”

April 28 & 29, 2024

*In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word, and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask.*

**Listening Assist Aids are available. Please see an usher.**

**Today's Theme: “THE LIVING LORD PRODUCES ACTIVE FAITH”**

Generally, our actions are shaped by our beliefs. People who eat low-carb diets do so, probably not because they hate pasta, but because they believe it healthiest. If a man buys stock in a company, it probably is because he believes in their business plan. Our beliefs shape our behavior. This is true of Christians' belief in the resurrection. We believe that Christ's resurrection means our resurrection to a glorious eternal life is guaranteed. That inevitably shapes how we will act now. However, it is not simply the facts of the resurrection that shape our behavior. It is the person of the resurrection. Jesus is not some wise, dead sage whose advice is contained in dusty books. Jesus lives! Therefore, through his Word, he is able to work on our minds and hearts, molding them to his perfect will. Here is a resurrection reality. Jesus fills us with his Spirit, not only so that we have faith, but also so that we produce the fruits of faith he seeks.

**The Service - Setting Two p. 172**

**HYMN #444: “Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won” - see slides**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION - see slides**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie - see slides**

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST - Gloria in Excelsis - see slides**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (Spoken by Pastor - ALL speak the Amen)**

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.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-37**

*In the early church, as the apostles preached the resurrection of Christ, the living Lord produced the fruits of unity and generosity.*

<sup>32</sup>All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup>that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup>and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. <sup>36</sup>Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 63C - (CW Psalter page 313) - see slides**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:18-24**

*St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.*

<sup>8</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup>This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup>and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>The one who keeps God's commands lives 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.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - see slides**

**GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

*Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of faith.*

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also 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. <sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches.