



Pondering Along the Way

The Quiet of a Resurrection Morning

Has it ever struck you, how Easter comes so quietly, unlike Christmas that comes with angels singing and Magi entering in a grand procession?

Easter is different. The sounds of a Resurrection Morning are quiet. There are muffled sounds of women at dawn, the sound of sandals on the gravel road, and hushed disciples in a locked room. Then there is a distraught Mary standing near the grave in tears, hearing her name whispered "Mary!" I like the quiet of a Resurrection Morning. A morning that begins in the dark.

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark..." John 20:1

Dear ones, let us learn from this! When our prayers seem to go unheard. When hope seems lost and darkness fills our minds and hearts, this is where we need Easter and the quiet of a Resurrection Morning.

"While it was still dark." Where is it dark for you? When is it difficult to even get up to begin a new day?

On that Friday when Jesus died and darkness covered the land, it must have seemed to those watching that all was lost. Yet, the women followed as they carried the body of Jesus to his burial. The woman stood at a distance, taking note of where they laid the corpse of the one they loved. They did not flee. They stayed by His lifeless side. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. Among those spices, would have been Myrrh, a gift once fit for a child in Bethlehem and now fit for a corpse.

It seems so small, so ordinary. But in their sorrow, they simply did what they could. They obeyed the Sabbath command, by waiting and resting. How they must have longed to . do something. The Sabbath however, was to be a day for singing the Psalms and giving thanks to God for His faithfulness. Yet, on this day, how could they sing, when their faith was shattered and it seemed as though all hope had died with Jesus? The Sabbath was created to remember how God rescued his people, when we could not help ourselves.

The Sabbath was about resting in the *Lord's work through His Messiah. And yet, they had just placed him in a tomb! How could they pause their mourning to honor God who had promised a Messiah who was now dead? Wouldn't it have felt entirely pointless? Yet, in their sorrow, they were living out and trusting His Word, "They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy!" (Psalm 126:5)*

Have you experienced that pain of being in church and trying to sing a hymn through tears and wondering what is the point of it all?

When the Sabbath was over, the women returned to the tomb while it was still dark, not in anticipation of an empty grave but rather prepared to express their love one last time for their dead Lord.

“Faithfulness in the dark is often quiet and unseen. Simple, daily obedience.

Keeping the Sabbath. Tending to the small and the sacred.

Preparing for what lies ahead, even when the road is shrouded.

In the silence between Friday and Sunday?

Between despair and resurrection? Between death and dawn?

The women show us the quiet strength of obedience in uncertainty.

They were not thinking or looking for resurrection.

*They were not waiting for an empty tomb. They simply loved Jesus,
and so they did the next thing.”*

(Dan Steel - “Ever Approaching Dawn”)

Sometimes it can feel as if our days are spent in that space between Good Friday and The Quiet of a Resurrection Morning.

Like the women, we are called to remain faithful in the ordinary, trusting that when it feels like Friday, we know that Sunday is coming. When we get up in the morning and dawn is breaking, we know what the women did not know that first morning. The darkness does not have the final word. The grave has lost its grip. As it was with Mary, in the quietness of all our own Resurrection Mornings, He calls our name **“Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine.”** (Isaiah 43:1)

NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD SERIES

There are four books in the New Testament that are one chapter long. Short and to the point, like a Postcard!

They are often overlooked. Yet, they hold teachings that are vital to the Church and to our day to day lives. Come and study and grow with us as we explore these

“Postcards of the New Testament”

beginning February 1st, 2026.

- ♦ **Philemon**
- ♦ **II John**
- ♦ **III John**
- ♦ **Jude**



*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30 NIV)*

MEMORIALS

In Memory Of

Betty Soble
George Rhodes
Wally Mapes
Virginia Randolph

Hal Wiley
Brad Henderson
Jim Crowley
Eris Hogue
Michelle Eschrich

Sent By

Rick & Kay Wheaton
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Rick & Kay Wheaton
Bruce & Chris Schuessler
Jan Swanson
Art & Barb Steinhauer
Art & Barb Steinhauer
Art & Barb Steinhauer
Art & Barb Steinhauer
Art & Barb Steinhauer



APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE

CHURCH COUNTERS:

Laura Keesler
Nina Lau

ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Michele Clark
Gayle Gallmann

READER:

Mary Paterniti

PRAYERS:

Michele Clark

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthday not
published
On-line

Please remember our shut-ins:

Pastor and the deacons try to ensure that each person gets visitation and Communion at least once a month. BUT, a card, a phone call or a brief visit brightens the day for our brothers and sisters who can no longer attend services regularly. Cards and a list of our shut-ins are available in the Social Hall.

Marsha Denning
354 Interstate Pkwy.
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Glenn Bunce
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Bradford, PA 16701
814-363-3166

Bob Kelly
138 Prospect Street
Bradford, PA 16701
814-362-9884

Gifts of Grace Gift Card Program



Order with payment must be
Submitted by **11AM** on the
FIRST Sunday of each month.

NEXT GIFT CARD ORDER

May 3rd, 2026

**New participants: Tops Friendly
Markets and Big Lots!**

Questions? See Jackie Streb



FYI

For anyone wishing to rent the Social Hall or the Community Life Center for an event, your contact person is **Brenda Alviti: 814-558-1829**

Council Meeting

Church Council meeting will be at 6pm **April 14th, 2026** in the church social hall.

Please remember that the Congregation is always welcome!



Deacon's Meeting

The next Deacon's meeting will be at 6:00pm

May 6th, 2026 in the church social hall.

RECYCLING

Keep saving your nickel cans and nickel plastic bottles! Please leave them in the church social hall for pick-up. Thank you! Remember: ***"With God all things are possible."***



Deadlines for Weekly Slides, Bulletin Items

Just a reminder that the deadline to have items placed in the weekly bulletin is Wednesday morning and the deadline for slides is Thursday morning. Please write the information in the manner you would like the church secretary to print it.

Altar Flowers

You may sign up for Altar Flowers on the chart posted in the Social Hall. This can be in memory of a loved one or friend or to commemorate a special event. To make a donation you may use one of the envelopes in the Welcome Center and place in the collection plate, the safe or call the Church Office at 814-362-3244.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on **April 9th** and **April 23rd** at 10:30am in the church social hall.

We are studying "Women Of The Old Testament".
This month will be about Esther - a captive who is courageous
and more concerned for others.
Be strengthened in the fellowship of Christian women.

For more information please contact:
Vicki Sander: 814-465-3137 or Laura Keesler: 814465-9388





**Grace
Lutheran
Church**

**Interim Pastor
Barry J. Keurulainen**

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**Community Life Center
(814) 362-1236**

**glmoffice@agraceplace.org
www.agraceplace.org**

Join Us For Worship!

**Sunday
10:00am Blended
9:00am Family Education**

***We're On
The Web!***

***www.agraceplace.org
Like us on Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Ministries
(Live Streaming
Sundays 10am)***

**CURRENT AND
UPCOMING EVENTS AT
GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

APRIL 3RD

**Good Friday Service 9:30am
CLC & Office Closed**

APRIL 5TH

EASTER

APRIL 9TH & 23RD

Women's Bible Study 10:30am

APRIL 14TH

Council Meeting 6pm

APRIL 22ND

Earth Day



OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday: 10am-2pm
Tuesday: 10am-2pm
Thursday: 10am-2pm
Friday: 10am-2pm**

The Grace Lutheran Church Newsletter is published monthly. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. If you have any Questions or comments about the newsletter, please e-mail them to: glmoffice@agraceplace.org or leave them in