## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

For sight when we are blind, hearing when we are deaf, and the assurance of your touch when we have ceased to feel, we give thanks, Sovereign God. We would extend to others all that we have received from your hand. Use these offerings of gratitude in our midst and far beyond the reach of our imagination. Amen!

# We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

\*CLOSING HYMN Amazing Grace UMH 378 (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

## \*BENEDICTION Responsive

Go out, looking for the good in other people; reach out, seeing in others the potential God sees.

We go out as messengers of God's forgiveness and proclaimers of God's faithfulness.

Dare to do things differently in work and play. Take the risks of following where Christ leads.

We reach out to feed and tend at Christ's command, valuing our sisters and brothers as God's own.

Praise God, O you saints of the Most High, and honor the Lamb who was slain for us.

We will praise God in the depth of our being, so that even the silence speaks of God's love. Amen!

\*POSTLUDE

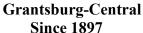
Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2025 Parish Ministry Theme: "Do Good and Share with Others" (Hebrews 13:16)

# 3rd Sunday of Easter







Atlas Since 1887



NO. 2025-18

May 4th, 2025

St. Croix Falls Since 1859

## **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

9:00 AM at Grantsburg (9:10 AM, Children's Time) 10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 AM, Sunday School) 11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: <a href="mailto:snssnyder@gmail.com">snssnyder@gmail.com</a>
Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: <a href="mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com">centralumc2016@gmail.com</a>

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 St. Croix Falls Office: 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC

# **Upper St. Croix Parish**

Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
May 4th, 2025
3rd Sunday of Easter

\*Please stand if you are able.

\*PRELUDE

Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PASSING OF THE GREETINGS** 

"Peace be with You!"

(Waive your hands at one another)

# We Celebrate New Life in Christ

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, That whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

We give thanks to the Lord, whose love endures forever.

We sing praises to God, who turns mourning into dancing.

You, O Lord, lifted us up from the depths;

You did not let our enemies rejoice over us.

You brought our souls up from Sheol;

You restored us to life from among those gone down to the pit.

Because of Your love, O God, we will not be shaken.

We believe in the name of Jesus, the One who saves.

We praise You, Lord our God,

For Your steadfast love and everlasting life. Amen.

\*DEDICATING HYMN

Easter People, Raise Your Voice

UMH 304 (vs. 1 & 2)

## **OPENING PRAYER** Unison

Risen Lord, we come this day with hearts still echoing the joy of Easter morning. You have walked through our locked doors of fear and spoken peace. You have opened the Scriptures and our eyes to Your living presence. As we gather to worship, fill us with resurrection hope. Let doubt give way to faith, sorrow to joy, and silence to songs of praise. Open our hearts to receive Your Word

and send us out as witnesses to Your love. Be among us now, O Christ, and let our worship glorify You. In Your name we pray, Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME** 

**UMH 191 (vs. 1)** 

# Proclamation of God's Word

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:16

(NRSV, p. 94 in the NT, and p.900 in the Living Bible)

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

**SERMON** 

"Take My Son!"

Sharon Asp

# We Respond to God's Word

## **RESPONDING PRAYER** Unison

Gracious God, we thank You for the depth of Your love—love so vast that You gave Your only Son, that we might not perish but have eternal life. We stand in awe of such grace, poured out not because we earned it, but because You chose to love us first. Help us to live in the light of that love, to trust in Christ with open hearts, and to share this good news with a world in need. Let Your love shape our lives, our words, and our witness. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, Amen.

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request: Pastor: Lord, in your mercy, All: Hear our Prayer.

PRAYER SONG

**UMH 487** 

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY

**UMH 95** 

## **MAY CHURCH MISSIONS**

## ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

# INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones yearround.



# LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: eggs, milk, mayonnaise, coffee, tea, peanut butter, crackers, cookies. Personal Products for men & women.



For May we will be collecting items for Community Referral Agency (CRA) in Milltown that

provides shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence and assault.

Items should be new or in good to very good condition. Please see the newsletter or bulletin board at church for a list of suggested items.

Thank you!

# GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

# **BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER**"!

REMEMBER ... **Every Sunday** Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"

In May we will be collecting financial donations and supplies for the Salvation Army's Faith House in Siren.



They are looking for specific supplies: Socks, dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels and Kleenex.

# ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

# Food Shelf



(Communion Sunday)

# Sailor Hat Offering:



The Sailor Hat offering will go to support the St. Croix Falls Food Shelf!

# Thank you for your support!

## TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

# Ministers All God's People / Rev. Jenny Lee

## **Central** -**Grantsburg**

Toni Koons Pianist Preach Sharon Asp **Scripture Reading** Toni Koons Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland **Fellowship** Volunteer Needed Counter Volunteer Needed

Cleaning Sandra Erickson Volunteer Needed

Sunday School



#### Atlas

Pianist Sharon Asp Preach Sharon Asp Sue Olson Liturgist

Usher Colleen Adams-Schween

Volunteer Needed Cleaning

Sunday School Josie Grimes

#### St. Croix Falls

Pianist Sharon Asp Preach Sharon Asp Karen Sciacca Liturgist Usher(s) Jim Andrews Counter **Peter Gionis** Bell Ringer Kathy Gionis Flowers Lynn Hanson Fellowship Admin Members

# THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Kaelyn Richter 5/4 5/4 Ashleigh Olson Colleen Norenberg 5/4 Casper Rahkola 5/7 5/10 Jim Sciacca



## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Online Zoom service is not available on April 27 and May 4th.
- Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) Sunday's videos are not available April 27 and May 4th.
- We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email with the weekly E-News. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

## This Week's Calendar:

5/10:

Today: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter. Peace Be with You!

## **Worship Service Schedule**

5/4:	9:00 am	Grantsburg with Zoom (9:10 am, Children's Time)
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10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am, Sunday School)

11:15 am St. Croix Falls

4/22-5/5: Pastor Jenny on Vacation

5/2-5/4 Youth Retreat at Wood Lake Camp

5/5-5/6: Provisional Elder Workshop at Pine Lake Camp

5/7: 10:00 am Korean Caucus Board Meeting via Zoom

7:30 pm Youth Gathering (G) 10:00 am VBS Staff Meeting

Breakthrough Prayers: Please pray for: Those struggling with illness and/or addiction, especially children, undocumented immigrants, for those who were affected by the storms in Minnesota and Wisconsin this week, for the U.S.A, for Myanmar (earthquake) and the world (God's peace).

## **Next Sunday (May 11th):**

## **Central - Grantsburg**

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist Toni Koons
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland
Fellowship Volunteer Needed
Counter Volunteer Needed
Cleaning Sandra Erickson
Sunday School Volunteer Needed



#### Atlas

Pianist Sharon Asp

Liturgist Colleen Adams-Schween

Usher Jamie Steffen
Cleaning **Volunteer Needed**Sunday School Cheryl Olson

#### St. Croix Falls

**Pianist** Sharon Asp Karen Sciacca Liturgist Usher(s) Jim Andrews Counter **Peter Gionis Bell Ringer Kathy Gionis Flowers** Kathy Gionis **Fellowship Admin Members** Kathy & Peter Gionis Communion:

# **Upcoming Events & News**

\*April: Church Love Month



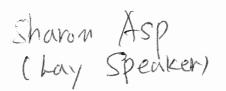
4/22-5/5: Pastor Jenny's Vacation

5/5-5/6: Provisional Elder Workshop at Pine Lake Camp

5/10: 10:00 am VBS Staff Meeting

5/11: Communion/Mother's Day

# SERMON FOR MAY 5, 202§



**JOHN 3:16** 

HOW MANY OF US HAVE PICTURES IN OUR HOMES? SOME OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, PARTIES, VACATIONS, ETC.? HOW ABOUT THE WALLS? MANY HANGING THERRE? I HAVE FOREST SCENES, COUNTRY AND ANIMALS. ANYONE HAVE RARE WORKS OF ART LIKE PICASSO OR OTHERS. THE STORY I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU CAME FROM A FRIEND OF MINE. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IT WITH YOU. IT'S CALLED "TAKE MY SON".

A WEALTHY MAN AND HIS SON LOVED TO COLLECT RARE WORKS OF ART. THEY HAD EVERYTHING IN THEIR COLLECTION, FROM PICASSO TO RAPHAEL. THEY WOULD OFTEN SIT TOGETHER AND ADMIRE THE GREAT WORKS OF ART.

THEN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT BROKE OUT, THE SON WENT TO WAR. HE WAS COURAGEOUS AND DIED IN BATTLE WHILE RESCUING ANOTHER SOLDIER. THE FATHER WAS NOTIFIED AND GRIEVED DEEPLY FOR HIS ONLY SON.

ABOUT A MONTH LATER, JUST BERFORE CHRISTMAS, THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. A YOUNG MAN STOOD AT THE DOOR WITH A LARGE PACKAGE IN HIS HANDS.

HE SAID, "SIR, YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I AM THE SOLDIER FOR WHOM YOUR SON GAVE HIS LIFE. HE SAVED MANY LIVES THAT DAY, AND HE WAS CARRYING ME TO SAFETY WHEN A BULLET STRUCK HIM IN THE HEART AND HE DIED INSTANTLY. HE OFTEN TALKED ABOUT YOU AND YOUR LOVE FOR ART. "THE YOUNG MAN HELD OUT THIS PACDKAGE. "I KNOW THIS ISN'T MUCH, BUT I WOULDTHINK YOUR SON WOULD HAVE WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS."

THE FATHER OPENED THE PACKAGE. IT WAS A PORTRAIT OF HIS SON, PAINTED BY THE YOUNG MAN. HE STARED IN AWE AT THE WAY THE SOLDIER HAD CAPTURED THE PERSONALITY OF HIS SON IN THE PAINTING. THE FATHER WAS SO DRAWN TO THE EYES THAT HIS OWN EYES WELLED UP WITH TEARS. HE THANKED THE YOUNG MAN AND OFFERED TO PAY HIM FOR THE PICTURE. "OH, NO, SIR, I COULD NEVER REPAY WHAT YOUR SON DID FOR ME. IT'S A GIFT."

THE FATHER HUNG THE PORTRAIT OVER HIS MANTLE. EVERY TIME VISITORS CAME TO HIS HOME, HE WOULD TOOK THEM TO SEE THE PORTRAIT OF HIS SON BEFORE HE SHOWED THEM THE OTHER GREAT WORKS OF ART HE HAD COLLECTED.

THE MAN DIED A FEW MONTH LATER. THERE WAS TO BE A GREAT AUCTION OF HIS PAINTINGS. MANY INFLUENTCIAL PEOPLE GATHERED, EXCITED OVER SEEING THE GREAT PAINTINGS AND HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ONE FOR THEIR COLLECTION.

ON THE PLATFORM SAT THE PAINTING OF THE SON. THE AUCTIONEER POUNDED HIS GAVEL. "WE WILL START THE BIDDING WITH THIS PICTURE OF THE SON. WHO WILL BID FOR THIS PICTURE?"

THERE WAS SILENCE. THEN A VOICE IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM SHOUTED, "WE WANT TO SEE THE FAMOUS PAINTINGS. SKIP THIS ONE." BUT THE AUCTIONEER PERSWISTED. WHO WILL START THE BIDDING? \$100, \$200?

ANOTHER VOICE SAID ANGRILY, "WE DIDN'T COME TO SEE THIS PAINTING. WE CAME TO SEE THE VAN GOEHS, THE REMBRANTS. GET ON WITH THE REAL BIDS." BUT STILL THE AUCTIONEER CONTINUED. "THE SON! WHO"LL TAKE THE SON?"

FINALLY, A VOICE CAME FROM THE VERY BACK OF THE ROOM. IT WAS THE LONGTIME GARDENER OF THE MAN AND HIS SON. "I'LL GIVE \$10 FOR THE PAINTING. BVEING A POOR MAN, IT WAS ALL HE COULD AFFORD.

"WE HAVE \$10, WHO WILL BID \$20?" GIVE IT TO HIM FOR \$10. LET"S SEE THE MASTERS. \$10 IS THE BID. WON'T SOMEONE BID \$29?

THE CROWD WAS BECOMING ANGRY. THEY DIDN'T WANT THE PICTURE OF THE SON. THEY WANTED THE MORE WORTHY INVESTMENTS FOR THEIR COLLECTIONS. THE AUCTIONEER POUNDED THE GRAVEL. "GOING ONCE, TWICE, SOLD FOR \$10.

A MAN SITTING IN THE SECOND ROW SHOUTED, "NOW LET'S GET ON WITH THE COLLECTION." THE AUCTIONEER LAID DOWN HIS GRAVEL. "I'M SORRY,THIS AUCTION IS OVER." WHAT ABOUT THE PAINTINGS?

I AM SORRY. WHEN I WAS CALLED TO CONDUCT THIS AUCTION, I WAS TOLD OF A SECRET STIPULATION IN THE WILL. I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO REVEAL THAT STIPULATION UNTIL THIS TIME. ONLY THE PAINTING OF THE SON WOULD BE AUCTIONED. WHOEVER BOUGHT THAT PAINTING WOULD INHERIT THE ENTIRE ESTATE, INCLUDING THE PAINTINGS. THE MAN WHO TOOK THE SON GETS EVERYTHING.

GOD GAVE HIS ONLY SON 2000 YEARS AGO TO DIE ON THE CROSS. MUCH LIKE THE AUCTIONEER, HIS MESSAGE TODAY IS: "THE SON, THE SON, WHO'LL TAKE THE SON! BECAUSE YOU SEE, WHOEVER TAKES THE SON GETS EVERYTHING.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON THAT WHO SO EVER BELIEVES IN HIM, WILL NOT PARISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.. THAT'S LOVE!

GOD BLESS. AMEN.