Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21, 2024 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history.

Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.



→ GATHERING **→**

Prelude

Please rise, as you are able and turn towards the font and Christ Candle at the Sanctuary entrance.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

- **P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed!!! Alleluia!!!
- **P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed!!! Alleluia!!!
- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed!!! Alleluia!!!
- **P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- C Amen.
- **P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.



- **P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.



- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep,
- C you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

★ THE WORD **★**

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

A reading from Acts. ⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

A The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

- **A** ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- C ²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me be-side still waters.
- **A** ³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- C ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; or you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- **A** ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- C ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from First John. ¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask,

because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please rise, as you are able.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to John the tenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Karen Pugatch

Please rise, as you are able.



- 1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis dom you have spo ken;
- 2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin ner's death en dur ing:
- 3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as cend-ed:
- 4 My Lord of lords, one Trin i ty, to your pure name be giv en



but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken. for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing. your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed. all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.

Blessing of Quilts and Kits

- **P** God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the supplies collected for these kits. May their presence be a sign of hope and love to our neighbors around the world.
- C Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.
- **P** God, we give thanks for all the volunteer hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out. We give you thanks for those who provided these materials and their generosity.
- C Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.
- **P** God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.
- C Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.
- P God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our siblings in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.
- C Amen.
- **A** Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.
- C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from

Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

- **A** God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- **P** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
- C Amen.

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

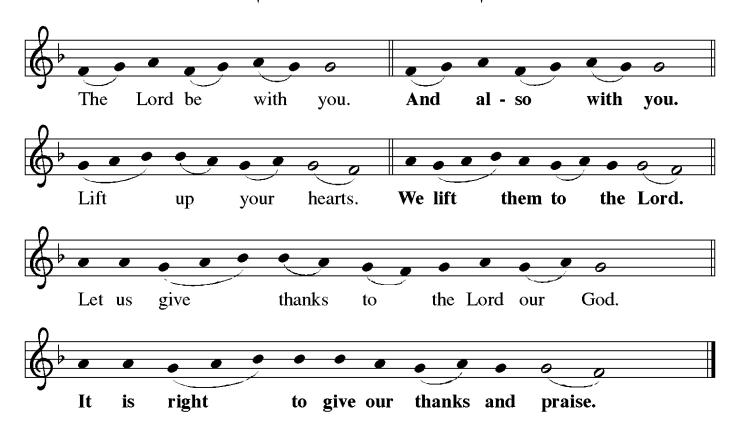
Offering and Offertory

As the gifts are presented, please rise as you are able.



- A Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
- C May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

♦THE EUCHARIST**♦**



The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:



P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

- **P** For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- **P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

- **P** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.

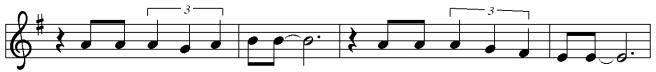
If you require communion to be brought to you in the pew, please alert an usher.

During the distribution, the following is sung: Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .





Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

- **P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.
- **A** Let us pray. Shepherding God,
- C you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

♦ SENDING **♦**

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- **P** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.
- C Amen.



- A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
- C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

We welcome and thank Simone Baron for our music this morning and Pastor Karen Pugatch for leading our worship!

The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by

By Merrill & Betty Messick in Celebration of their 65th Wedding Anniversary!

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

Debbie, Ray, Mary, Merle, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty, Theresa, Linda, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Nancy, Lois, Barbara & Bruce

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SERVING TODAY Greeter	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m. Gail Fricke
Assisting Minister	Sherman Canapp, OSSD	Tina Zimmerman
Communion Assistants		Angela Wachter
Ushers	Doyle McCracken	Peggy Thomas John Helmick
Acolytes		
Livestream		Joel Raedeke