



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
SPIRIT-LED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN**

**10:30AM CT Contemporary Worship
Sunday, April 21st, 2024
Third Sunday of EASTER
With Holy Communion**

**Prayers Requests
Please Text-in-Church 314.329.0487
or Office@holycrosselca.com**



Care for God's
Creatures

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

MEDITATION MUSIC *Psalm 23 (I am not alone)* Song # 7111981 CCLI License # 1787498

<p>Verse 1 The Lord is my Shepherd He goes before me Defender behind me I won't fear I'm filled with anointing My cup's overflowing No weapon can harm me I won't fear Chorus Hallelujah I am not alone He's my Comfort always holds me close</p>	<p>Verse 2 He always guides me Through mountains and valleys His joy is refreshing Restores my soul Mercy and goodness Give me assurance That I'll see His glory Face to face Bridge Your Spirit lives within me So I will walk in Your peace Your Spirit lives within me My victory my victory (4X) Bridge My victory my victory My victory my victory My victory my victory My victory my victory</p>
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WELCOME & Introduction of Bishop Susan Candea *by Worship Asst*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & ANNOUNCEMENTS *by Pastor*

THEME OF THE DAY SIGNS of EASTERING - **ALL THAT IS CREATED**

GREETING & PASSING OF JESUS' PEACE *The minister and All greet each other*

The Beauty of our Creator inspires us, the Grace of the Good Shepherd be with us, and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

C: And may it be so *Then the assembly is seated.*

EARTH DAY CONFESSION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Blessed are You, God, Creator of the Cosmos,

C: have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ... and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Led by the Worship Assistant*

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in Creation and the new Children receiving their First Communion this Day: **Alexander, Liam, and Tristan.** Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. Today we pray for...:

Keith DeCamp,

Adam Jackson,

Leah Leimbach,

Preben Christensen,

Sionie Elavsky,

Lois Ristau,

Ginger Prellwitz,

Alvin Leimbach,

Marylyn Bicknell,

Jeff Benson,

Sam Boydston, (friend of Brock & Michele Klingler),

Michelle Le Bihan (breast cancer, friend of Quentin),

Carol Hermann (Bud's sister in KC with heart problems),

Diana (hospitalized),

Patti, (treatment for cancer, friend of the Jost Family),

Larry Dennison (loosing battle with cancer and will be in hospice care soon),

Sally & Wayne (Prayers for healing and God's Peace, friends of Jayne & Clint),

Dorothea Botz,

All the those affected by illness and wars.

Prayers of condolence..

to the family of Jerry Benson (passed away 4/11, brother of Jeff Benson),

to the family of John Agre (passed away 4/14, friend of Dennis & Pastor Janice)

AMEN!

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: Acts 4: 5 – 12 *Read by the Worship Assistant*

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

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."

Here ends the First Reading.

Psalm: 23 *Read by the Worship Assistant and ALL in Bold*

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely 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

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

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. Word of God.

C: Word of Life!

GOSPEL John 10:11-18 *Read by Bishop*

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON MESSAGE - SIGNS of EASTERING: Guest Preacher Bishop Susan Candea
ALL THAT IS CREATED has Shepherding Starting with the Children / Youth Time
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

SONG AFTER MESSAGE *Because of Your Love*

<p>Intro Yeah yeah Yeah yeah</p> <p>Verse As we come into Your presence We remember ev'ry blessing That You've poured out so freely from above Lifting gratitude and praises For compassion so amazing Lord we've come to give You thanks For all You've done</p> <p>Chorus Because of Your love we're forgiven Because of Your love our hearts are clean We lift You up with songs of freedom Forever we're changed because of Your love</p> <p>Intro Yeah yeah</p>	<p>Verse As we come into Your presence We remember ev'ry blessing That You've poured out so freely from above Lifting gratitude and praises For compassion so amazing Lord we've come to give You thanks For all You've done</p> <p>Chorus Because of Your love we're forgiven Because of Your love our hearts are clean We lift You up with songs of freedom Forever we're changed because of Your love</p> <p>REPEAT CHORUS</p> <p>Ending Yeah Yeah Yeah (3X) CCLI Song # 4662501 CCLI License # 1787498</p>
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MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING *Please continue to offer to Holy Cross what you desire to give to God through*

- *2024 Pledges*
 - *E-giving pledge through Vanco online*
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 - *Go to our Website & hit "DONATE NOW"*
- <http://www.holycrosselca.com/site/cs/links.asp>

If communing at home, please gather your Communion elements to hold up during the Words of Institution

OFFERING SONG - Instrumental

OFFERING PRAYER *Led by the Worship Assistant*

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God... 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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

The Risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's Table. *The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion. The families of our 1st Communion are invited to the Rail first to partake and we pray over them before the Music and rest are invited forward.*

COMMUNION SONG *How Beautiful*

<p>Verse 1 How beautiful the hands that served The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth How beautiful the feet that walked The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross</p> <p>Chorus How beautiful how beautiful How beautiful is the body of Christ</p> <p>Verse 2 How beautiful the heart that bled That took all my sin and bore it instead How beautiful the tender eyes That chose to forgive and never despise</p> <p>Bridge And as He laid down His life We offer this sacrifice That we will live just as He died Willing to pay the price Willing to pay the price</p>	<p>Verse 3 How beautiful the radiant Bride Who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes How beautiful when humble hearts give The fruit of pure lives so that others may live</p> <p>Verse 4 How beautiful the feet that bring The sound of good news and the love of the King How beautiful the hands that serve The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth CCLI Song # 443594 Twila Paris © 1990 Ariose Music; Mountain Spring Music CCLI License # 1787498</p>
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *The assisting minister leads*

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory throughout all Creation, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. '

C: Amen.

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

BLESSING The God of Resurrection Power, the Christ of unending Joy, and the Spirit of Easter Hope + bless you now and always!

C: Amen!

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG *Great Are You Lord (NEW)*

<p>Great Are You Lord Verse 1 The beauty of Your majesty Displayed for all the world to see Is it any wonder is it any wonder The glory of Your holiness The mercy of Your faithfulness Is it any wonder is it any wonder Chorus We sing great are You Lord For we adore You Lift up Your name and fall before You We stand in awe and sing great are You Lord We lift up our voice we sing holy holy Hallelujah to the one and only Forevermore we'll sing great are You Lord Verse 2 Through endless ages You will reign Yet ev'ry season You're the same Is it any wonder is it any wonder The pow'r of Your redeeming plan Grace that offers life to man Is it any wonder is it any wonder</p>	<p>Interlude Oh is it any wonder Any wonder we sing Any wonder we sing oh Bridge Great are You Lord is it any wonder we sing Great are You Lord is it any wonder we sing Great are You Lord is it any wonder Bridge Great are You Lord is it any wonder Great are You Lord is it any wonder Great are You Lord we sing great are You (Lord) (REPEAT) Ending Sing great are You Lord Sing great are You Lord Sing great are You Lord CCLI Song # 5364372 James Rueger Tony Wood © 2008 As It Were Music; New Spring; Row J, Seat 9 Songs For use solely with the SongSelect® All rights reserved. CCLI License # 1787498</p>
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WE ARE GRATEFUL! Pastor: Janice Hawley & Bishop Candea **Lay Assistants:** Mike Prange / Penny Rudolph **A/V Volunteers:** Philip Paul, Donovan Lucas, Court Templeton, Carrie Curnutte, Mark Rudolph **Organist:** Jack Hamill and **Singer:** Megan & Linda **Praise Band:** Brandon Clay, Marty Little, Jason Cooper, Matt Davis **Contemporary Music Worship Director:** Dave Reinking

Council Members: Dave Winkler (President), Bob Morin (Vice President), Kevin Aleshire (Member at Large) Kari Brangan, Kelly Caligiuri, Donovan Lucas, Philip Paul, Mary Bailey (Treasurer), Clarence Jentes (Financial Secretary), Penny Rudolph (Secretary)

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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