

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Sunday, April 21, 2024

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
Florissant, MO 63033

PRELUDE

“I Love Thee, My Lord”
“Episode in G Minor”

arr. Hugh S. Livingston Jr.
Franklin Ritter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Details on announcements are at the end of this bulletin.)*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM *(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen. Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.

C: The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land.

P: In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

C: Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen. Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

ELW #369

GREETING

P: Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, 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.**

BELLS: “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12

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.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

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

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

L: 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; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: 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

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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the gospel.

P: The holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter (verses 11-18)

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.**
Following the reading the assembly is seated.

BELLS "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

SERMON Pastor Matt

HYMN OF THE DAY "Have No Fear Little Flock" ELW#764

PROFESSION OF FAITH – *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

God our Good Shepherd, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God who nurtures, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Unconditionally loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of grace, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith, who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God, creator of generations, you have worked through families to bring faith, hope, and love since creation. Continue to nurture, guide, and inspire our family of faith, especially our brothers and sisters in the Holmes, Hoogland, and Sebastian families. Guide, protect, and build these families up in faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Share God's peace in whatever way you and/or neighbors are comfortable.
Following the sharing of the peace the assembly is seated.*

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

COMMUNION LITURGY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise. Hosanna in the highest!

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us and teach us to pray,

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION *Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. Additional verbal directions will be given.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”

ELW#502

BLESSING

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.

PRAYER

L: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Worship Media Team – Marilyn, Erle, Rod, Laurie, and Gary

BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. (Num. 6:24)

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"The Lord's My Shepherd"

ELW#778

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Christ Has Ascended"

David Paxton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. May Lunch Bunch will be dining at Red Lobster located at 12235 St. Charles Rock Road on May 9 at 11:30 am. Lunch bunch is a nice way to enjoy a meal and enjoy fellowship. For reservations contact Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or email jameyer46@charter.net. Everyone is welcome!
2. Girl Scouts and Living Christ - This Thursday, April 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. is the last quilt tying for the school year. We have four quilts to tie for Lutheran World Relief.

APRIL 21, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett

Lector: Gary Brown

Live Streaming: Rod Wallace

Musician: Greg Ott

Ushers: Jim & Doris Stoehner

Greeter: Jeanne Calderwood

Altar Guild: Joyce Wolf & Ann Schultz

APRIL 28, 2024

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Randy Henning

Lector: Laurie Brown

Live Streaming: Gary & Laurie Brown

Musician: David Eggers

Ushers: Gloria Broderick & Cathie Lehr

Greeter: Gloria Broderick

Altar Guild: Doris S, Bill K & Marilyn W