

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and Handicap Friendly Congregation

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"I am the **good shepherd**. The **good shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024
10:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons or take along a copy of this week’s children’s bulletin.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

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

Gathering Music

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury/Varner

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Affirmation of Baptism and Easter Greeting

This is the Good News –
The grave is empty, Christ is risen.
Hallelujah!

This is the Good News –
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.
Hallelujah!

This is the Good News –
Once we were no people, now we are God's people.
Hallelujah!

Christ is alive,
moving among the living.

Christ is risen,
inviting us to rise in fullness of life.

Christ is calling,
proclaiming life and hope for all.

In remembrance of our baptism, the Pastor blesses the congregation with water.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. As we remember our own baptisms, pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children with all the baptized in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW Setting 3

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Shepherding God, guardian of our souls,
you offer us rest in the safety of green pastures.

Show us with your love, and offer us fullness of life in your name.

When our spirits are parched,
you lead us beside still waters and quench our thirst for righteousness;
you restore our souls and heal our battered spirits.
Touch our hearts and minds,
that your goodness and mercy may follow us every day of our lives.
May we abide in your love and grace for all eternity.
Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

1st Reading Acts 4:5-12

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Acts.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,
with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander,
and all who were of the high-priestly family.

When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired,
“By what power or by what name did you do this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,

“Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being questioned today because of a
good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has
been healed, let 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. This Jesus is

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

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

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

A reading from First John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How 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?

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.
And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us,
for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God,
and we receive from him whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And 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. All 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, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

ELW Setting 3

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel John 10:11-18

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from John, the 10th chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.”

This is the Good News!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The assembly is seated.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW 502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

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.

After each petition:

Lord, Our Good Shepherd,
hear our prayer.

Pastor's closing 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

Peace

May the peace of Christ make you ready for love to flow around and through you.
May you boldly share his love as you pass the peace of Christ with one another this
day.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Response to God's gifts

The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of
the church, including the care of those in need. Please place your offering in the offering
plates on the tables in the rear of the worship center.

The table is set.

Please stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

May the risen Lord be with you!

And also with you.

Resurrection people, lift your hearts to God.

We lift our hearts to the One who gives us new life.

Sing with joy on this day of resurrection.

Our songs of joy overflow this day.

Therefore, we lift our voices to you day and night, with those gathered around your throne and with those who struggle to be faithful today, singing your praise and our thanksgiving:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 3

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of the bread and the cup.
As the bread which is broken makes us whole, and the cup overflows with your grace,
so pour us out for others:
so we may offer shelter to those who have no home;
so we may comfort those whose hearts are broken by the world;
so we may share food with all who ache from hunger;
so we may guide the thirsty to the pools of life we have found.

Lord's Prayer

God in Community, Holy in One, continue to touch us with your peace,
even as we pray as we are taught, saying:

**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 the table

As a good shepherd feeds the flock, the Lord has prepared a table for us.
Come to the table of the Lord, and share in this holy feast of love.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 3

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.

Communion Anthem

Come to the Table
Adult Choir

Pote

Communion Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Communion Hymn

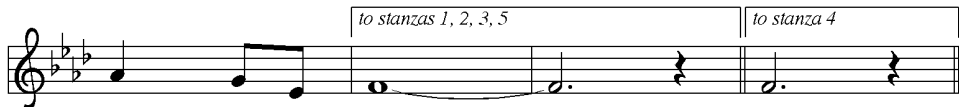
Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

Refrain
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.
Shepherding God,
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

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

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

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

Sending Music

Shepherd Me, O God

Haugen/Hayes



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Use your credit or debit card at the Giving Kiosk;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor
Nancy Pfeffer, Interim Musician
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

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Reader

Helen Miller

Communion Assistant

Theresa Schinkowitch

Greeter

Nancy Slimmer

Usher

Rick Slimmer

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Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

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Nancy Pfeffer, Julie Timmcke, Marian Harrison, Kitti Berkheimer, Lynn Snyder,
Barb Roba, Lynda Swartz, Carol Osenbach, Mary Vink