

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

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

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Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024
8:30 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

Shout to the Lord

Zschech/Bettcher

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!



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine,
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Refrain

Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

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.

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!

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

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.

Sermon

Pastor Mark Wimmer

Please stand as you are able.

Word in Song

Oh, Sing Jubilee to the Lord

LBW 256



1 Oh, sing ju - bi - lee to the Lord, ev - 'ry land;
2 He made us his own, and has giv - en us breath;
3 Oh, come to his feast with thanks - giv - ing and praise;
4 His mer - cy is ours; he is Lord o - ver all;



glo - ry be to God! Oh, serve him with glad - ness, as
glo - ry be to God! The sheep of his pas - ture, we
glo - ry be to God! Give glo - ry to him, and your
glo - ry be to God! May all gen - er - a - tions find



in his halls we stand;
need not fear our death, sing prais - es to God out of Zi - on!
bright - est ban - ners raise; pow - er in his call;

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.

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.

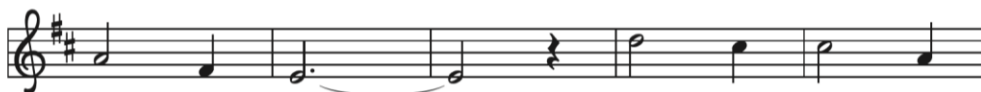
Communion Song

In This Feast of Love

ACS 962



Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, täs - sä
1 In this feast of love, in this
2 In this bread and wine, in this
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us



pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
feast of love, Lord, you share your
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
peace, O Lord; fill us with the



it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.



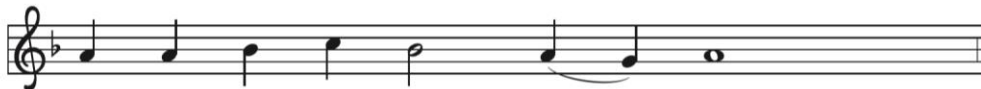
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and 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 Song *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

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



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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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WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Assisting Minister

JoEllen Rooney

Reader

Art Horst

Song Leader

Marcey Binkley

Communion Assistants

Linda Devine, Mary Vink

Greeter

Marlene Feulner

Usher

Rich Feulner

Production/Technology Team

Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Tom Moessner,
Bob Neitz, Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

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

