

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

A Serving Community

God's work, our hands!

Rev. Rebecca Zielke, Pastor

Tim L. Elder, CAGO, Director of Music

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21, 2024

10:15 a.m.



The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

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GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude Sheep May Safely Graze J.S. Bach/arr. John Carter

Please stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
Amen

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

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done.
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.
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.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

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

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.

Amen

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

Gathering Hymn Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! ELW 385

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. The study continues with discussions on the book of Genesis lead by Pastor Dawn Richie.

The Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women’s Organization is hosting an event at Grace, Wadsworth, on April 27th. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Space if you would like to attend. Additional information of the event can be found beside the sign up sheet.

NEXT SUNDAY is Scout Sunday, April 28th. This is a time to recognize the scout groups that meet at Lord of Life. The Scouts are also planning a pancake breakfast for the church membership to be held in Fellowship Hall before worship that morning beginning at 9 am. Please come early, enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the Scout groups and spend time in fellowship with them before worship.

PASTA DINNER DRIVE THRU is this Thursday, April 25, beginning at 3 pm. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors! \$8 a dinner includes a generous portion of pasta with Lord of Life’s famous meat sauce, a salad with dressing, bread and a brownie for dessert. Plan on arriving early before dinners run out! Hope to see you then!

Daily readings for April 22—April 27, 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Psalm 95	Psalm 95	Psalm 95	Psalm 22: 25-31	Psalm 22: 25-31	Psalm 22: 25-31
1 Samuel 16: 1-13	1 Chronicles 11: 1-9	Micah 7: 8-20	Amos 8: 1-7	Amos 8: 11-13	Amos 9: 7-15
1 Peter 5: 1-5	Revelation 7: 13-17	Mark 14: 26-31	Acts 8: 1b-8	Acts 8: 9-25	Mark 4: 30-32

Now the Feast

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God.

Lord's Prayer

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 This risen Christ is made know to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Lamb of God

Congregation:

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

Please be seated

Communion

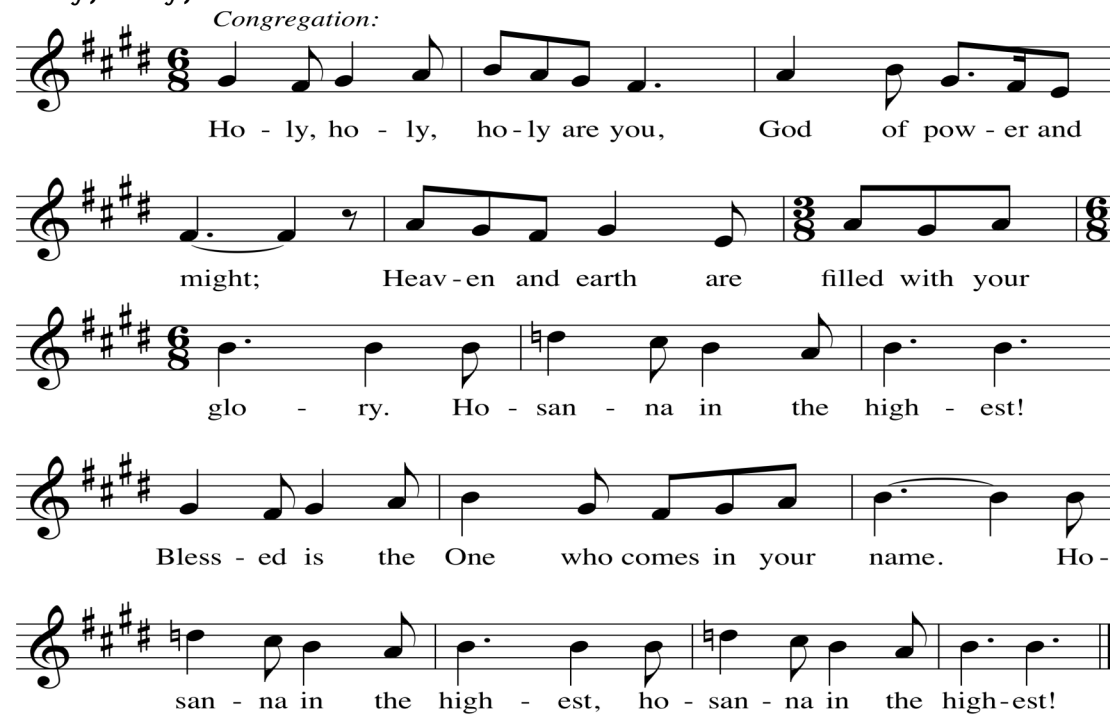
Follow the usher's direction to come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and take a glass of wine from the tray. Dispose of the cup in the basket provided on the railing and return to your seat by the side aisle.

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy,

Congregation:



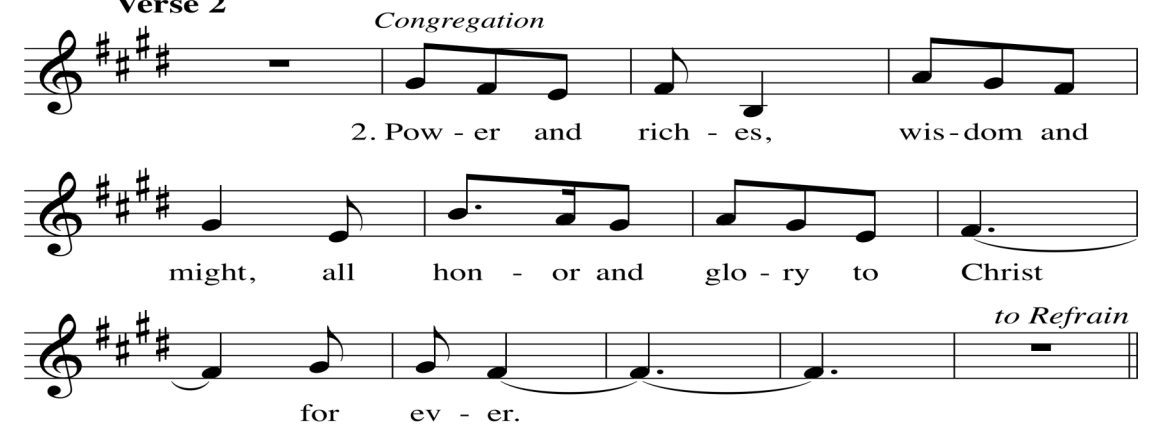
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Eucharistic Prayer

P Blessed are you.....as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
C **Christ had died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
P O God of resurrection.....Grace our table with your presence.
C **Come, Holy Spirit.**
P Reveal yourself to us.....burning with justice peace and love.
C **Come, Holy Spirit.**
P With your holy ones.....we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity,
now and forever.
C Amen

Verse 2

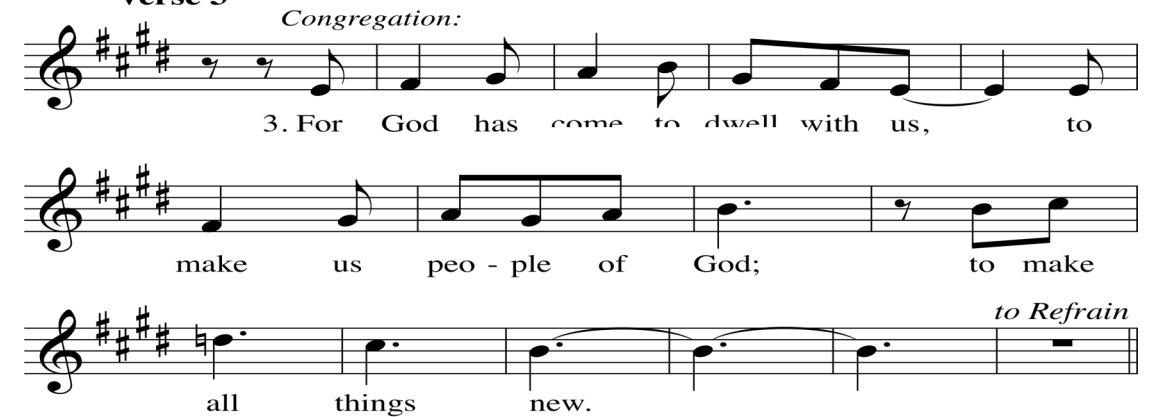
Congregation



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
to Refrain
for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
to Refrain
all things new.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

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."

P Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

*The choir and song leader will sing the verses,
the congregation is invited to sing the refrain each time it occurs.*

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?

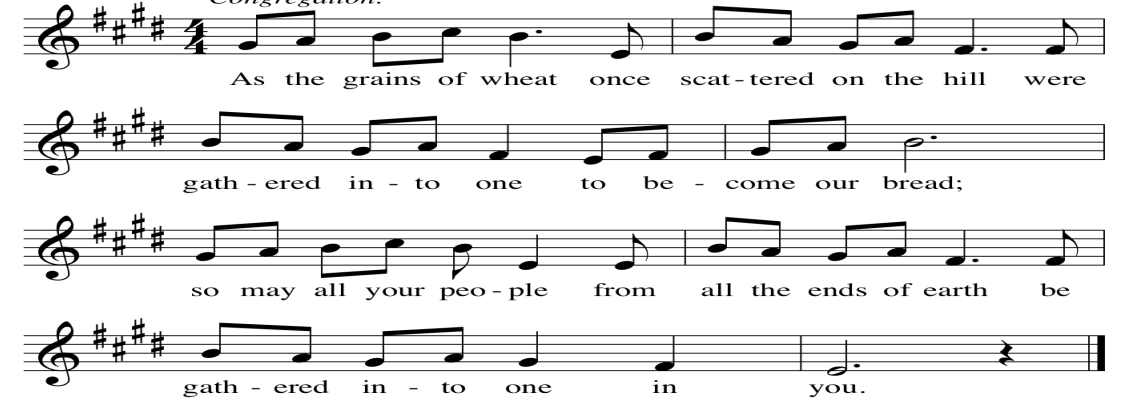
¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not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

MEAL

Offering response

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Please stand.

Offering Prayer

P 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.

C Amen.

Dialogue

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.

P 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, especially

Bernadette Allen, Martha Baluck, Don Beinke, Wayne Booher, Sandy Calvin, Barb Drotleff, Madolyn Elder, Marlene Gabig, Chris Hunnicutt, Devon Kirtley, Todd Kirtley, Mallory Kuchum, Daryl Kurtz, Joye Lange, Joe Markovitch, Sr., Ron McIlvaine, Ashley Miner, Jonathan Miner, Molly Nicholas, Marge Pancher, Jodi Frank Rice, Pastor Bob Schmalzle, Bob Titus, Christine Titus, David and Marcia Titus, Jennifer Titus, Dave and Pearl Torrance, Loretta Underhill, Jim Vasbinder, the family of Barb Rinda, the family of Peppy Theodore, the family of Del Lobaugh and the family of Laura Markovitch. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer**

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**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The offering plate is located on the table as you enter/exit the worship space.

²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.

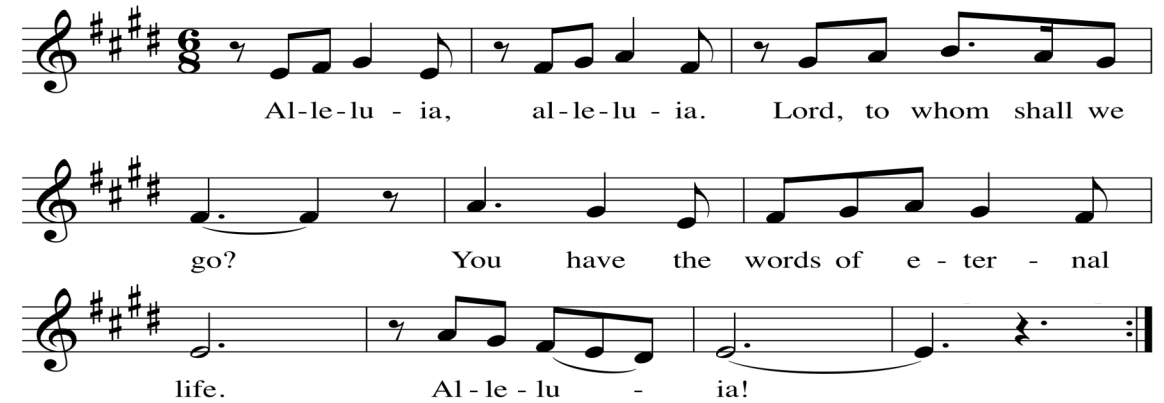
P Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

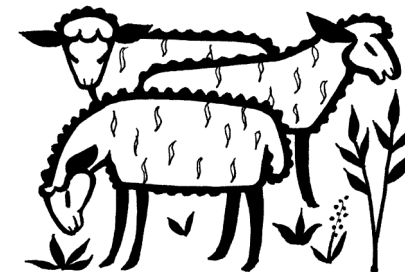
Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

The song leader will introduce the Gospel acclamation, the people will then repeat.



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



Gospel

John 10:11-18

P The holy gospel according to John.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

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

Please be seated.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764

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 life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

P 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.

Shepherding God, 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Nurturing God, 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

P 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,

C **hear our prayer.**