



**The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Worship with Holy Communion  
Sunday, April 21, 2024**

# ***Good morning & welcome to Grace during this holy season of Easter!***

*Our mission is to invite and welcome all  
to the fellowship of Christ in service to our community.*

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!** The church keeps Easter for eight Sundays. Early Christians referred to Sunday as the eighth day, as if the normal week of seven is miraculously completed in an extraordinary eighth day. The fifty days culminates at Pentecost. Each Sunday, individually and communally, we meet the risen Christ in word and sacrament. **Alleluia!**

**We are glad you are with us for worship today, and we offer a special welcome to any guests who may be with us this morning, and to all those who are joining us via Live-Stream.**

**Children are welcome in worship at Grace!** The voices of children only enhance worship, and they are welcome in this space! There is a Children's Corner in the sanctuary and, if needed, a nursery off the lobby.

**Your bulletin** contains the worship service in its entirety, **and your parts are printed in bold type.**

**In thanksgiving to God for the saving grace shown to all of us in the death and resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion each week. All are welcome at the Table.** We do come forward to the front of the sanctuary for communion. The Pastor stands in the center of the aisle with the bread. Gluten free bread is available – just ask when you come forward. Finally, communion assistants are located on both sides of the sanctuary, with both **wine (red)** and **juice (white)**. Please place your empty cup in the bowl on your way back to your seat after you commune.

**For those participating from home, please have a small glass of wine or juice and a small piece of bread available for all who are planning to commune.** When we come to the Meal portion of the service, and the people who are present in person are coming forward, please eat your bread and drink your cup as you are moved to do so. You may say the words: This is the body of Christ; this is the blood of Christ, as you commune yourself, and/or others.

**If you have questions** about our worship service, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you. For more information about Baptism or Communion, about what Lutherans believe, or even about Grace Lutheran Church, please do not hesitate to reach out to our pastor.

**Again, welcome to worship!**

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

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**PRELUDE**

*“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

**ELW 502**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*All may make the sign of the cross 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 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. 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**

*“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”*

**ELW 531**

**GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW 836 – “Hymn to Joy”)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## 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**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**      “*Let Us Break Bread Together*”      arr. Dan R. Edwards

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

## FIRST READING

**Acts 4:5 – 12**

*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. And we read:*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

<sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power

or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

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

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 23** (*read in unison*)

<sup>1</sup>**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**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<sup>st</sup> 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. And we read:*

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>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?

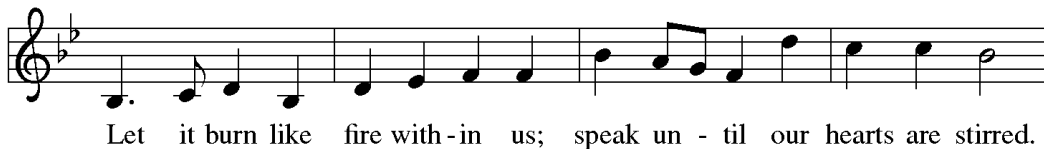
<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**John 10:11 – 18**

*The holy gospel, according to Saint John. **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. And we read:*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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.”

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

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Have No Fear, Little Flock”*

**ELW 764**

**THE CREED** ~ *Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE PEACE**

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*).

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. You are a God who nurtures all you have made. Preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems, and inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and each one of us, who have been 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. We remember today especially, the people of Haiti, Israel, Palestine, Russia and Ukraine. You are a God who loves all you have made. Protect the vulnerable, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who are sick, suffering or grieving. Work in us and through us, your people, to comfort all in need, especially those on our prayer list, and those we name before you now in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. You are a God who gives life to all. We give thanks for our ancestors in faith, including Anselm of Canterbury, who is commemorated this week, and all 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.**

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**

The peace of our risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*At this time, you are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

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**CHANCEL CHOIR**     *“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”*     **arr. Ted McKinley**

### **OFFERING**

*If you would like to offer a gift, the collection plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministry.*

**OFFERING RESPONSE**     *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*     **ELW 186**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**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**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Those moved to do so may rise.)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The presiding minister continues with the proper preface:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, who gave himself to take away our sin, and who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW 448 – “This is the Spirit’s Entry Now”)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:*


**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

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

## LAMB OF GOD

(ELW 359 – “Where Charity and Love Prevail”)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*“Build a Longer Table”*

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

**See Back Page**

**ELW 484**

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## PRAYER

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.

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**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**

*“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”*

**ELW 536**

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**We will! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”*

**ELW 385**

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# Build a Longer Table



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.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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