

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING AND THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (v 1&3) ELW 367

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

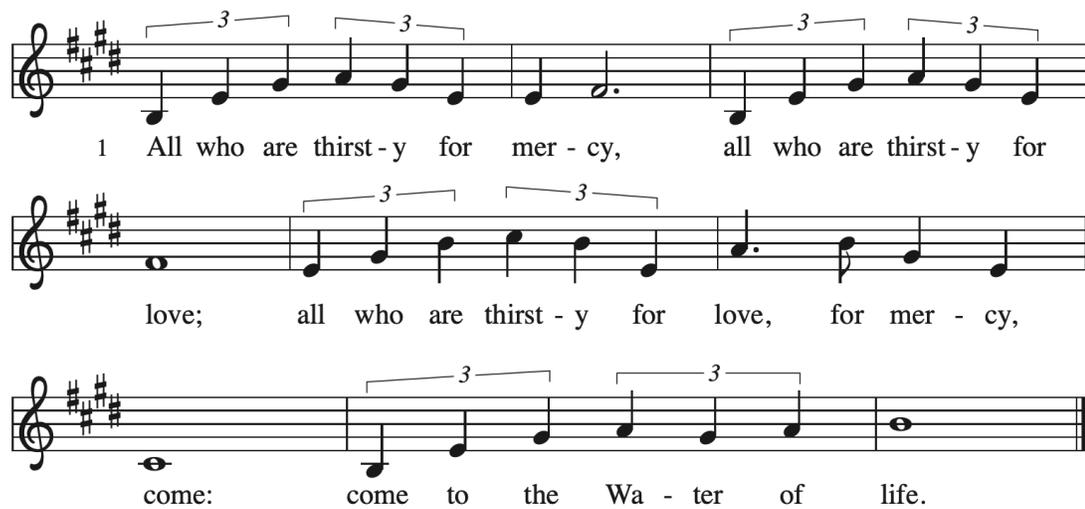
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

The pianist plays ACS 955 through once, instrumental only, while the water is poured.

"Come to the Water of Life" ACS 955



1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for
love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

**In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.**

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

**At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

2 All who are thirst-y for heal-ing, all who are thirst-y for
 touch; all who are thirst-y for touch, for heal-ing,
 come: come to the Wa-ter of life.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
 in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
 like rains to our thirsting earth,
 like streams that revive our souls,
 like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

3 All who are thirst-y for beau-ty, all who are thirst-y for
 truth; all who are thirst-y for truth, for beau-ty,
 come: come to the Wa-ter of life.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
 Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
 Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for

peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
 Cleanse our hearts.
 Shower us with life.
 To you be given honor and praise
 through Jesus Christ our Lord
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY PKC

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12

The next day [the] 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are 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."

God's story, your story.
Thanks be to God.

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:16-24

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. 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 truth and action. 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.

God’s story, your story.

Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "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."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "In Christ Alone" (vs. 1&4)

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
light, my strength my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I
stand.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus alone gives life and peace.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we may bear witness not only with words, but through our actions, to your expansive love. Bless the church with faithful pastors and diaconal ministers, and may those you call into full-time ministry hear and answer your call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, we pray for the leaders of nations around the world. Place into their hearts the passion to serve, and remove any desire to overpower others. Help them to listen to your voice and be guided by your love, that they may experience true joy in lifting up the poor and lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we love one another in truth and in action. We pray for all those in need; especially we lift up Myrtle, Sharla, Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Eva, Olai, Dave and Trudy, Carolyn, Lyle and Marlene, Olivia, Syd, Pastor Dick and Jan, Corrie, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowyn, Catherine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Mary, Clayton, Montgomery, Rosemary, Landon, Shellene, Judy and Ron, and Miriam. Help them to experience your deep abiding presence and hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Good Shepherd, you know us, you share our joys and our sorrows. Comfort all who are grieving this day, especially we pray for Kate Black and Colleen Dixson and all those who mourn the passing of Bev Black. Be their source of strength today and in the days ahead and may they rest in your peace. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Life-giving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness and give us new life in you. You call us to love you and others. Grow that love in us as individuals and as this community of faith. Help us not to grow weary of serving, but to be invigorated as a people of faith. We ask your blessing on Lois Hoult and Marlin and Sue Howg. We lift up Pastor Erin Phillips and all who are involved with Ecumenical Campus Ministry. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING THE PEACE

Jesus stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." This word of peace is for us, too.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

A video loop will invite people to participate in sharing the peace.

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" ELW 645 To the tune of "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" ELW 864

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.

Living Lord, abiding with us
by your Spirit, now we pray:
grant us love for one another,
help us walk within your way,
and your fullest benediction
shed within our hearts today.

SENDING

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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