**Worship Plan for Sunday, April 14, 2024**

Third Sunday of Easter

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

**GATHERING**

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

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Water is poured to remind us of our baptism.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (ELW 377)**  
  
1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
  
Refrain  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!  
  
2 Walking the way, Christ in the center  
telling the story to open our eyes;  
breaking our bread, giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain  
  
3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;  
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,  
gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain  
  
4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:  
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!  
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

5 City of God, Easter forever,  
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints and archangels,  
sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

**GREETING (ELW p. 147)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 147)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 149)**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**

**whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,**

**and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God**

**and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might**

**be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,**

**for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**CHILDREN'S FOCUS DURING WORSHIP**

**FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19**

A reading from Acts.

12[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?13The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.  
 17“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 4**

1Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
  you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.  
 2**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;**  
  **how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**  
 3Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;  
  the Lord will hear me when I call.  
 4**Tremble, then, and do not sin;**  
  **speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**  
 5Offer the appointed sacrifices,  
  and put your trust in the Lord.

6**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”**  
  **Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.**  
 7You have put gladness in my heart,  
  more than when grain and wine abound.  
 8**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;**  
  **for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7**

A reading from 1 John.

1See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.  
 4Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

36bJesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate in their presence.  
 44Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)**  
  
1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.  
  
2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.  
  
3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

**CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**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**

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.

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, so that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. Guide your church in the world, especially the Chitipa Central Parish of Malawi. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty, especially: Ann & Rod; Gary & Kay; Deb; Dan, Lauren, Michael & Mary; Brad, Jessica, Cole & Mason; Pastor Jeff & Jennae; Katharine; Michael & Susan; Nancy; Shirley; Michael; Katharine & Bob; Jasmine; Mike; Marie & Ray; Pastor Dale & Kathy, Phyllis, Kaitlin, Mark, Caroline & Cliff….and all others we now lift up in prayer. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died, especially Noreen Moore. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Resurrection spells new things! Help us plant seeds with our children for a foundation of faith in Jesus, giving them a wholeness of spirit. Help them grow to love and adore you and faithfully witness to your saving grace, o Lord. Today we especially pray for: Levi; Lauren & Elise; Andrea; Lucca & Roman; Cole & Mason; Griffin, Molly & Katie; Jay, Nona, John & Helen. 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.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 152)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING SONG *Be Not Afraid* (ELW 388) (sung twice)**

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 153)**

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;

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 p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;

you encircled the globe with air;

you created fire for warmth and light;

you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,

and with mercy higher than the mountains,

with grace deeper than the seas,

you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,

might be adopted to live in your Spirit,

you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,

we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,

the first-born of your new creation.

We remember his life lived for others,

and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

We await his coming,

when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,

all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,

send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,

whose breath revives us for life,

whose fire rouses us to love.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,

that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,

receive our praise and petitions,

as Jesus received the cry of the needy,

and fill us with your blessing,

until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,

we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:

through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)**

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.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ in Mark invites us into the Easter story alongside Jesus and the disciples. As we hear the disciples and apostles learning and growing the new church in Acts during the Easter Season, we hear again and again how God invited everyone to the table. Hear that invitation extended to you- whatever your doubts or fears, your distance or presence, God has extended this table for you!

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, you sent your son to save those you care for in his death and resurrection. We trust that you also send those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned.  Empowered by your Spirit, encouraged by this community, encourage those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Christ is Risen! Let us profess this through acting and living our mission statement: **Responding to great love, given by God's grace, it is our mission to do God's work with our hands.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please see your bulletin for the weekly schedule.

Next Sunday, April 21st, there will be NO worship at Good Shepherd. We will be worshiping at Saron Lutheran at 9:30AM. FLOCK will be singing during the service, as a farewell to Pastor Paul Simmons who will be retiring June 16th. This service will be available via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Join us for a Bible Study following worship today.

**BIRTHDAYS**

15 Ann

15 Darrell

17 Mary

19 Jackson

20 Missy

**BLESSING (ELW p. 155)**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* (ELW 366)**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;

now is the victor's triumph won!

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst;

Jesus their legions has dispersed.

Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

3 The three sad days have quickly sped,

Christ rises glorious from the dead.

All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!

4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;

the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.

Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,

from death's sting free your servants too,

that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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