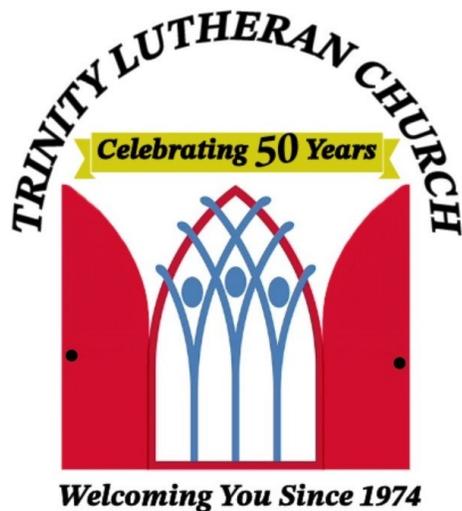




Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

10:00 am



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. We celebrate today 50 years of the Shepherd's love and how that love has shaped this flock for kingdom work here and in the wider community.

Order of Worship

= Hymn Number, pp. = Page in front part of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" (ELW)
or "All Creation Sings" (ACS)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MEDITATION

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

"Thaxted" arr. David Howard Pettit
Preston Wilhite: trumpet; David Singer: organ; Jason Mraz: timpani

(stand) **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P Immersed in the promise 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.

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.

C **Amen**

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

GATHERING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”ELW #836

(stand) **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G **And also with you.**

(stand) **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray...

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. As you have called us together for 50 years, continue to make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

(sit) **FIRST READING Psalm 23 (spoken responsively)**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

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

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**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.**

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

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

A Word of God, word of life.

G **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S TALK

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

“God Loves Us”Music: Kelly Mraz; Lyrics: Sunday School Children

(stand) **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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(stand) **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.**

(sit) **SERMONBishop Kevin Strickland**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Christ the Same”

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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(stand) **APOSTLES' CREED**

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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.**

(stand) **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A 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.

Silence for reflection.

Each petition will close with the words: "God of grace,"

The response is "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 our Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(sit) **THE OFFERING**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“This is the Day”Linda Cable Shute

Chancel Choir, Resounding Joy

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. Risen One,
C **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.

(stand) **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- 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.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
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 The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God’s table.

G **Thanks be to God.**

(sit) **COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS**

Communion will be distributed by stations in front of the railing. Follow the direction of the ushers. If you are not able to come to the front, the pastor will bring the bread and wine to you at the pew. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request these from the pastor.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Come to the Table” **ELW #481**

“Reflection on Beach Spring” **Mitchell Eithun**
Resounding Joy

(stand)

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

G **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

G **Amen.**

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
G **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

G **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”ELW #367

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

G Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

**“Spring” (from “The Four Seasons”)..... Vivaldi
David Singer, Organ**

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