



Lord of Life
Lutheran Church



*Loved by God,
Sent to Serve.*

4th Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024
10:30 am

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Setting Eight

GATHERING

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

Prelude: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

ELW 674

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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 Song: *Blessed Be Your Name*

Greeting

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. 184

The assembly joins in with the refrain when invited.

let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord**
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Canticle of Praise

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Refrain

Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

- 1 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. **Refrain**
- 3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen. **Refrain (x2)**

Prayer of the Day

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. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: *Word of God, Speak*

Word of God speak, would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
to be still and know that You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest, in Your holiness
Word of God speak **(repeat)**

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Gospel: John 10:1-18

The holy gospel according to 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.

¹Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 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.”

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

Children’s Time

Sermon

The Rev. Karla Wildberger

Song of the Day: *Goodness, Love and Mercy*

Nicene Creed

Let us profess our faith together:

**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

...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

...our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Song: *Shepherd Me, O God*

ELW 780

Offering Prayer

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.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Preparing for the Table

People of God, People of life. We gather as a holy communion, for a meal that has been shared countless times, in countless places, and in countless ways.

The first time this meal was shared, Jesus was gathered around a table with a ragged collection of people--outcasts, betrayers, the power-hungry, the fragile, lonely, lost.

The first time this meal was celebrated, Jesus promised that it was for all time, that whenever the bread was broken and the wine poured, wherever the story was told around a table, he would be there.

Today we remember the story as it's been told a thousand times over; we eat the bread, and we drink the wine, and we affirm that we all belong at this table and that Jesus is here.

So if we come to this table angry,
Let this bread and wine be our peace.

If we come to this table broken,
Let this bread and wine be our grace.

If we come to this table betrayed,
Let this bread and wine be our wholeness.

If we come to this table in despair,
Let this bread and wine be our life.

For this is a holy table, with food to fill the hungry world and wine to quench thirsty hearts.

Thanks be to God!

Words of Institution

... We break bread and share the one cup.

Thanks be to God!

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God

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Communion Distribution Song: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

ELW 484

Refrain

You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.

Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. **Refrain**
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. **Refrain**
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**
- 4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**
- 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. **Refrain**

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Prayer after Communion

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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.

Announcements

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 Song: *All the People Said Amen*

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: *All the People Said Amen*

Announcements

Altar Flowers today are provided by Nancy Oehlert to celebrate the April 15th birthdays of Josie Boyle, Ben Klein & Nancy.

First Communion for Faith Boyle

We celebrate with Faith and her family as she receives her First Communion today at the 10:30 service.

Coffee House

Join us today from 4-6pm for the Coffee House/Silent Auction to raise funds for those going to the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. It is going to be lots of fun...there will be surprise guests!!! Also, in the Narthex, there is a table with boxes for each LOL person going to the Youth Gathering. Please write them a note with a prayer or thoughts of encouragement and put it in their box. (You can also get them a fast-food gift card for them to use to get snacks during their trip 😊)

World Hunger Month

April marks the month for collecting quarterly donations to World Hunger. If you choose to donate to this cause, it can be added to your regular giving and noted as 'Other: World Hunger' on the offering envelope.

"Ted Lasso" Bible Study

Our Ted Lasso Bible Study continues Monday, April 22nd at 6:30pm. Each week will include viewing the episode(s) of the week, and a Bible study to follow. You do not need to know anything about tea, soccer, football, coaching, or AFC Richmond to join this group. We will have 1 week of "stoppage" while Pastor Karla is away for "Faith Forward" training. Please RSVP to Pastor Karla if you would like to attend, pastor@lordoflifedbq.org

This Week at Lord of Life

Sunday, April 21	8:00 AM	Worship in-person
	9:15 AM	SS/Confirmation
	10:30 AM	NOW Worship in-person or online
Monday, April 22	6:30 PM	Ted Lasso Bible Study
Thursday, April 25	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministry

Prayer List

Phil & Peggy Granovsky
Grayden Grimm
Jim & Molly Hall and family
Susan & Kurt Hansen
Steve & Sandy Heer
Roni Heil
Dale & Jan Helwig-Schrobilgen

This Week's Worship Servants

Readers:	8:00 Larry Croghan	10:30 Tara Grace
Ushers:	8:00 Tim Shade	10:30 Jerry Merrick
Tech/PPT:	8:00	10:30

Acknowledgments

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