



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Cal Eggers	Worship Assistant
Gloria Stern	Lector

Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Video recordings of our weekly services can be viewed on our You Tube channel, *Christ Lutheran Forest Hills Pa*. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### PRELUDE

Triptych on The Shepherd Psalm

Gilbert M. Martin

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

#### OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing** Hymnal p. 475sts 1,3,4

**Good Christian friends rejoice and sing!**

**Now is the triumph of our King!**

**To all the world glad news we bring:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Praise we in song of victory.  
That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts up-lifted high:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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## INVOCATION

*The sign of the cross (†) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

**P:** Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to set forth Your praise, to hear Your Holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ, and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)**

*(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**This Is the Feast**

*Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain***

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain***

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all Creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and  
the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain***

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.  
Alleluia. *Refrain***

**COLLECT**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Acts 4:1–12

**L:** The first reading for the the fourth Sunday of Easter is from chapter four of Acts 4.

*Peter and John witness before the council.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

**The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want**

Hymnal p. 710

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.**

**He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for His own Name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me; and Thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.**

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## SECOND READING

1 John 3:16–24

L: The second reading is from chapter three of 1 John.

*Love one another.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 157

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

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

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 10:11–18

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. John, chapter ten.

C: (*sung*) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Jesus the Good Shepherd*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED<sup>2</sup>**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

Hymnal p.709

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;**

I nothing lack if I am His  
and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever!

Text and music: Public Domain

### SERMON<sup>3</sup>

VERSE(*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p.192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence,  
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,  
and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

*Following each petition:*

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and (†) give you His peace.

**C: (*sung*) Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Hymnal p.711

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us;**

**we are Yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,**

**You have bought us; we are Yours.**

**We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;**

**Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.**

**Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.**

**Blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

**Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will**

**Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

## **POSTLUDE**

**Revive Us Again**

**Robert J. Powell**

<sup>1</sup>*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

<sup>2</sup>*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

<sup>3</sup>Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

## **OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ONLINE VIEWERS**

For those worshipping with us online and those sheltering in place, we encourage you to bring your tithes and offerings to the church office open M-F mornings from 9-12, or mail your check in to church, or for those who bank online, simply instruct your bank to send us a check in the mail.

We all owe God our tithes and offerings and we encourage everyone to continue in the joy that is found in faithful financial stewardship. Thank you.

**HOME COMMUNION:** Christ Lutheran is providing Home Communion Packages with individually wrapped wafers and wine cups. These packages are to be distributed to those who are institutionalized or remain at home on Sundays. Home communions are available after worship and at the church office Monday through Friday 9am-Noon. Please write on the clipboard to whom you are taking communion.

*Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.*