

# Order of Worship for April 21, 2024

## Welcome

## Children's Sermon

### Gathering Hymn TFF #501 He Leadeth Me

1 He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought!  
Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

### *Refrain*

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
by his own hand he leadeth me.  
His faithful foll'wer I would be,  
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine;  
content, whatever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

4 And when my task on earth is done,  
when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834-1918

## Confession and Forgiveness

We serve a risen Savior yet we live as if in chains. **Amen**

Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of the risen Savior by confessing our sins and receiving God's forgiveness.

Almighty God, **Creator of the heavens and earth, we confess that we do not always live into the message of hope and salvation, the promise of eternal life. We live in ways that make the here and now more important than the future. We live in ways that put ourselves and our own success first over the needs of others and the long-term needs of the world. Forgive us for our selfish ways and call us into the path of Christ, who humbled himself and gave himself up for us on the cross, so that death might be no more and that all can share in the joy of salvation and eternal life, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

The stone is rolled away, the tomb was found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!" We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. You are forgiven; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you and desires great wholeness for all life. Walk forward on this journey of faith, knowing your brothers and sisters are with you. **Amen**

#### Prayer of the Day

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.**

#### First reading Acts 4:5-12

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There 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

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel acclamation

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Gospel reading John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #789 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

- 1 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.
- 2 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, blessed Jesus,  
hear us children when we pray.
- 3 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,  
early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.
- 4 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.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

### Apostle's 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 the People

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.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. Risen Christ, **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.**

### Noisy Offering

### Offering Prayer

Dear God, **thank you for all our blessings. Help our blessings be a blessing to others. In your name we pray, Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you!**

### Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### Words of Institution

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.

### 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.**

### Invitation to Communion

#### Lamb of God

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.

### Meal of Holy Communion

#### Prayer after Communion

Living God, **you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Blessing

Go out into the world as the people of God in this place, and may the God who raised Jesus from the dead grant you grace, the Son who gave his life for you give you peace, and the Spirit who is with you day by day, inspire you to greater service both now and forever more.

**Amen.**

## Sending hymn ELW #385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our king!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;  
death's mighty stone is rolled away;  
let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord,  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Confession/Forgiveness — written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, and posted on her **Rev-o-lution** blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

Blessing ~ written by Rev Margaret Whyte, and posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>

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