

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude Susan Berg, Organist

Announcements

Opening Songs "Everything Glorious" Praise Band
"Give Thanks" and Congregation
"Everlasting Life"

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross.

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 the water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your works 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.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 14:12-19

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city,^[a] brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. ¹⁴ When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, ¹⁵ "People,^[b] why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all peoples to follow their own ways, ¹⁷ yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy." ¹⁸ Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

¹⁹ But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:1-7

3 ¹ See 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. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he^[a] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children,^[b] let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

³⁶ stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."^[b] ³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look 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." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.^[c] ⁴¹ Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,^[d] ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[e] is^[f] to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and

forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses^[g] of these things.

Sermon

“BARRIERS TO BELIEVING”

Sermon Hymn

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”
Song Leaders and Congregation

Hymn 377
(vv. 1-4)

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father God, today's texts give us a glimpse of our heavenly bodies. They will be like the Risen Christ who had certain characteristics: His body was recognizable, but He could walk through walls and move through spaces. Jesus was able to eat food. *"He opened their minds to understand the scriptures."* 1 John says, *"It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him."* **Lord in your mercy...**

After the resurrection, the Apostles were startled and frightened when they first saw Jesus. But the reality of prophecy-fulfilled made them bold in their proclamation. Peter admonished the people to believe, saying, *"Repent, therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that the life-changing message of salvation would fill our hearts with peace and joy. 1 John continues, *"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."* But a message to our day gives us caution to be strong in faith and in the adherence to God's word. *"We are God's children now.... Little children, let no one deceive you."* We are living in an evil and adulterous generation. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and resurrection victory. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

The message that was first preached by the Apostles we, too, are to declare, *"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations.... You are witnesses of these things."* Lord, make us worthy witnesses of the Risen Lord. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray.

Amen

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "Make My Life an Alleluia" By Ruth Elaine Schram
Choral Ensemble

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant. —Robert Louis Stevenson

In today's reading, the disciples — minus Judas — have gathered in Jerusalem, along with “their companions” (v. 33) and the two men Jesus encountered on the road to Emmaus (vv. 13-33). Suddenly, Jesus popped unannounced into their midst and said, “BOO!”

Actually, he said, “Peace be with you.” But the effect was the same. “They were startled and terrified, and *thought that they were seeing a ghost*” (v. 37, emphasis added).

Have you ever seen a ghost? The disciples thought that what they were seeing was a ghost, like the time they were fishing (see Mark 6:49-50).

What is striking about this reading is Jesus' insistence that he wasn't a ghost. Jesus goes to great pains to demonstrate that he is not a sprite, apparition, phantom or ghost. He quickly establishes the physicality of his presence. “Look at my hands and my feet,” he said to them. “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” (vv. 39-40). At this point, he also “showed them his hands and his feet” (v. 40).

Why the stress on the humanity of Jesus? Many reasons, but one big one is because *Jesus is our brother* — one of us. The writer of Hebrews explains: Jesus “had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect ... because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested” (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Jesus is one of us. The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost. They were wrong. He was one of them. And if we are to have a ghost of a chance at experiencing the power of the resurrected life of Christ, we, too, must put aside any ghost stories. He is risen. Thanks be to God!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you broke the bonds of death. You are risen and alive! And now, you give us peace. Help me to enjoy the blessings of your peace. Amen.



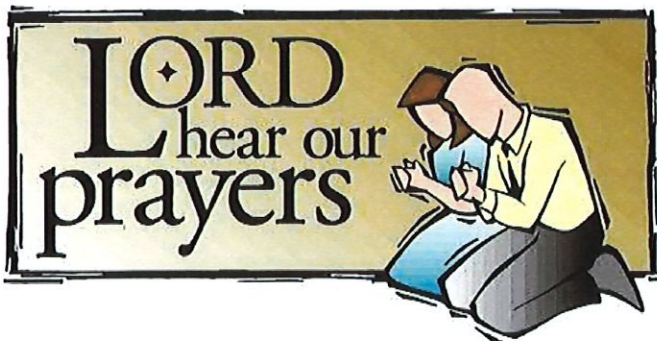
Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Bill Slusser
Betty Montgomery
Kathy Kuester
Jennifer Neer
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Dee Wright
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Baby Owen (Fake)
Claire and family upon the death
of Claire's husband, Dale Baumbach
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)
Owen (Fake)
Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)
Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The 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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Communion Hymn	“Children of the Heavenly Father” Song Leaders and Congregation	Hymn 781 (vv. 1-4)
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Closing Song	“Better Than Life”	Praise Band and Congregation
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Postlude	Susan Berg, Organist
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Sending
P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude	Susan Berg, Organist
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Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 4-6
Monday: Joshua 4-6
Tuesday: Joshua 7-9
Wednesday: Joshua 10-12
Thursday: Joshua 13-15
Friday: Joshua 16-18
Saturday: Psalms 34-36

Verse to Remember

“But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait; it is you, O LORD my God, who will answer.”

—Psalm 38:15

—Psalm 1:1-3

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Use the Table of Contents in the front of your Bible to find a list of the books in the Old Testament. Then, locate them in the box to the left by searching horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward or backward. Numbered books, such as 1 KINGS, appear only once without their numbers.

S	E	T	S	A	I	S	E	L	C	C	E	D	H	T
O	E	J	D	R	I	N	Y	G	L	E	I	N	A	D
N	J	O	S	E	E	S	T	H	E	R	G	A	I	M
G	E	S	E	E	U	B	A	H	O	S	E	A	D	U
O	R	H	Z	S	L	T	M	I	J	O	N	I	A	H
F	E	U	E	O	E	C	E	U	A	A	E	H	B	A
S	M	A	K	M	V	H	I	R	N	H	S	C	O	N
O	I	C	I	A	I	H	A	N	O	J	I	A	A	R
L	A	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	L	R	U
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M	I	A	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	M	E	H
O	D	C	G	K	U	K	K	A	B	A	H	C	Y	O
N	K	I	N	G	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	R	T
K	V	M	P	S	A	L	M	S	U	D	O	X	E	U
J	U	D	G	E	S	I	S	A	M	U	E	L	U	Z



DECODE THIS MESSAGE! Use the lowercase letters to decode the message. Answer is in the box above.
SHwhGaRtgDEWodCRpAroJomiLYsesPRgQUAoSBdwODSiIKNlpXOLroNOvWiTYde

ANSWER: What God promises, God will provide.

I AM A CHILD



OF GOD.

1 JOHN 3:1



I AM
a child
of
God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services Moving Back to Sanctuary!

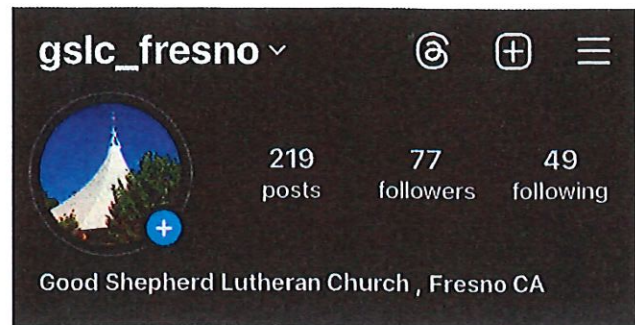


We have moved services back to the Sanctuary. If you are wondering - **NO the HVAC is NOT fixed** but the weather is much nicer now and the sanctuary should be warm enough. Just remember the order of the day is to dress in

layers! It might still be chilly at the start of service but warm up during. The plan is to stay in the sanctuary until the weather gets too warm and drives us back to air conditioning.

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please follow us on Instagram and like the posts to create an algorithm for our church. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



Pantry Needs Restocking



We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

Bring a Friend to Worship

There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.



OWLS' April 15 @ 1PM, Blast & Brew Restaurant



The OWLS' next destination will be Blast & Brew Restaurant on April 15, Monday at ONE PM to prey upon a no-host luncheon. The Hooties may silently glide in but you can bet there will be songs of laughter once we are perched. BBR is on the east side of Palm. 1 block south of Herndon. Turn IN on PALMDON. Parking in back.

Kingsmen/Kings Kids Begins April 24 @ 6:30PPM



The first KingsMen and Kings Kids after Easter will take place on April 24th at 6:30 pm in Jacobson Hall. Pizza will be provided. Thank you. William Hayes



Phone Number Change

Please make note of the following phone number change for Mona White: 559-791-5698



Emailing Statements



We will be emailing your quarterly statements this quarter. If you would like yours by traditional mail, please let the office know and we will mail it out. If you get one in the mail and would prefer email, please let the office know your email address and we will be glad to email future ones.

Upcoming Community Concerts

Fresno's celebrated women's chorale, *Soli Deo Gloria*, directed by Dr. Julie Carter, presents "Celebrating Our Stories," a concert at 7:30 p.m. (pre-concert notes at 7:00 p.m.) on Friday, April 19, at University Presbyterian Church, 1776 E. Roberts, Fresno 93710.



The concert will present music chosen to reflect the languages, hardships, and joys from the varied family heritages of chorale members, some of whom will also share their stories during the concert. The Luminosa women's choir from Clovis High School, directed by Tami Spurgeon, will also perform. Tickets are \$25 at the door (\$12 for students). Advance tickets may be purchased for \$20 from Cheryl Montgomery, who is a member of this outstanding ensemble, or online at sdg.choir.com.

Fresno Community Chorus' *Master Chorale* on Sunday, April 28, at 2:30 p.m. presents Jocelyn Hagen's "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci and Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare" featuring a unique and immersive audio-visual performance. The concert will be held at Shaghoian Concert Hall at the Clovis Unified School District Performing Arts Center, 2770 East International Ave., Fresno 93730. Tickets may be purchased at: www.Fresnocommunitychorus.org Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this acclaimed Chorale.

