

Order of Worship for April 25, 2021

Season of Easter

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.

(INSTRUMENTAL) OPENING HYMN: *ELW #778 The Lord's My Shepherd*

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.

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

O Lord, open my lips

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God

That we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Praise to the blessed and holy Trinity, one God,

who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

Praise to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READINGS & PSALM

First 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 23

1The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**2The 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.

**4Though 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.

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

Psalm Song - "On the Path of Justice (Psalm 23)" by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Verse 1:

Green pastures, quiet waters

Lead us and restore us

Deathshadow, fearful valley

Lead us and restore us

Refrain:

On the path of justice oh-oh

On the path of justice Oh lead us

On the path of justice

Verse 2:

Old hatreds reconciling

Bring us to your table

Full blessing overflowing

Bring us to your table

Verse 3:

Full lifetimes in your presence

Your compassion drives us

Full lifetimes in your presence

Your compassion drives us

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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.

The Holy Gospel According to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

(INSTRUMENTAL) HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #502 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

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 power of 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 Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Bless all who are working for healing and justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comforting Shepherd, you guide us to lie down in peaceful places. Be with us in the midst of all of our struggles and sorrows. We pray especially for all who are sick, all who are grieving, all who are lonely, and all who are struggling due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects around the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, using waves or peace signs.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.
Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they have with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (Sung): *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

DISMISSAL

Postlude by Shirley Bergman

From sundaysandseasons.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 4/18/21: 17

Check Register Balance 04/24/21

Current: \$8,563.08

Bank Loan: \$427.27+ interest

Offering:04/18/2021

Current: \$1,930

Benevolence: \$207

Improvement: \$85

Stained Glass repair: \$150

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Military members: Jordan Leach is home from Sheppard AFB TX. Both he and Justin are at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, IA. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

****Pastoral Care:** Pastor Kristen is available for pastoral care by phone at 563-212-1366.

EWALU Spring Work Day: Saturday, May 1, Volunteers are invited to Camp EWALU to help with a variety of outdoor service projects. The day starts at 9:00 a.m. Sack lunch provided. Please RSVP to camp@ewalu.org or call 563-933-4700.

Summer Food Program: The churches of the Jesup Ministerial will once again be working together to provide food for area families through the Summer Food Program this summer. Every other week during the summer, volunteers will pack food that will be picked up by Jesup families in need. This year, we are asking that folks from American Lutheran collect instant oatmeal that can be distributed to the families. Typically we have around 15-20 families and they will get food 5 times this summer. Please bring oatmeal to the church and place it in the shopping cart in the entryway. And save the date-- ALC will be packing food and distributing food on July 21, 4:30-6:00pm at St. A's cafeteria.

Graduate Sunday: May 16 will be graduate recognition Sunday. We will be honoring our high school graduate at worship. We would also like to recognize anyone from the congregation who has graduated from anything else in the past year— college, tech school, etc. Please send any graduate information to Pastor Kristen or to Jessica at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org