

Welcome to Worship this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020!!

### Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered in by God's grace, we are offered an opportunity for honesty about our failings and frailties and our honesty is met with forgiveness. So let us go boldly to God. We begin with our Easter affirmation: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

As we approach the mystery of God, we come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen. I invite you to a time of private confession.

We confess together: **God of life, we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises when around us is despair. Forgive us, O God, and let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, amen.**

People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever, amen.

Our opening hymn speaks of trust in God's presence with us.

Let us join in singing: "God is Here" (Hymn #526 verses 1 and 4)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

### 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.**

Let us join in the Prayer of the Day

**O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, this Jesus lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever, amen.**

Scripture readings (Omitted: Psalm 23 and 1 Peter 2:19-25)

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10:1-10

"Very 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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (Hymn #502, verses 1, 4, 6)

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

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.

And so, throughout all the lengths of days, thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Prayers of God's People

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Shepherding God, call us into abundant life that finds rest in trusting you. Fill our hearts with what we need today: compassion, kindness, patience, and wisdom. Guide us in your path. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Protect them as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, we thank you for ministry of education. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, faculty and administrators; give patience to those teaching who never expected to. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us with tenderness. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering, especially those we name before you now ... Wrap us all in your Spirit's loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food banks, and those who are deferring payments on behalf of the most vulnerable. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer - We pray together with hope the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, amen.

## Offering

Our world is fast to notice what we are running out of while forgetting the abundant gifts we already have. For your offering, spend time thanking God for the gifts you have and think of ways you can use them to honor God's work in your neighbors and in the world. As I suggested in our church newsletter, if your bills are not dependent on the stimulus check, spend it at local businesses, generously tip, and give to local non-profits to stimulate the economy.

If you choose to give to Lord of Life, you may mail an offering to our locked mailbox at 1005 St Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705. You may give securely online at [lordoflifeak.com/giving](http://lordoflifeak.com/giving), or on the "Give Plus Church" app by searching zip code 99705.

Thank you for supporting the work God is doing here and throughout your community.

Let us pray, **Merciful God, you take our ordinary gifts and make them into an abundance. Do the same with our lives, that we may serve in the name and strength of the risen Christ, amen.**

#### Announcements

Tuesday and Wednesday food box distribution, come at noon to help out!

If you did not receive our newsletter in your email, you can view it on our website, [lordoflifeak.com](http://lordoflifeak.com), under "The Latest" tab.

Next Sunday, you are invited to park in our lot and tune into worship! We are having another drive-in worship with Holy Communion! If you would like to serve those who gather, please text or call me at 322-2065 and let me know what you'd like to do. Reader, parking guide, singer, hand out Communion cups, lots.

#### Sending Blessing and Dismissal

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever, amen.

Christ is risen, Alleluia! Go in peace to share the good news!

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**