

**Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

May 3, 2020

**Christ Lutheran Family of Faith
Cottonwood, Minnesota**



*Today is sometimes called, “Good Shepherd Sunday.”
Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.* (Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2019)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Gathered into a faith community that knows no boundaries we will share in the Lord’s Supper today. You are invited to **prepare elements of Holy Communion** in your home to be used later in our time of worship to commune members of your household.

Piano Prelude *“Blessing, Honor, and Glory”*

Easter Proclamation

L: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We worship, as we live each day, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: We give thanks and praise to God who has found us, lost and astray and guided us along sure paths to life in abundance. Let us confess the ways we are separated from God and from one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: In the first of your wonders, O God, you created the earth, spreading it out like a banquet before us.

C: Forgive us for all the ways we have caused harm to your beautiful creation and have failed to recognize it as an abundant banquet for all to enjoy.

L: You created a people for yourself and gave them your law that they might know your voice and follow in your ways.

C: Forgive us for all the times we have been distracted by other voices that call us away from your pathway.

L: When we wandered away like lost sheep, stumbling through the shadows of death's valley, you sent us your child, Jesus Christ, who endured abuse and suffering unjustly and returned only mercy and life.

C: Forgive us for all the times we have turned our backs to your never-failing love and mercy that are always pursuing us, and have failed to see Jesus in the face of all our neighbors.

L: Calling us to attend to his voice and return to you, Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, and when you raised him he freed us to follow him, our shepherd and guardian of our souls.

C: Hear our cries for forgiveness, and free us to live as beloved sheep, loved mightily and cared for by the gate and Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

L: Dear friends, Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross so that, free from sin and the fear of sin, we might experience life in abundance. By his wounds we have been healed. Siblings in Christ, your sins are forgiven; + be at peace.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the abundant and joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹“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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Janel Kuester

**Hymn of the Day - “Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing
[ELW 544]**

Words and Music are printed on the next page

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
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Profession of Faith

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 God's People

*The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with,
"hear our prayer."*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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 Holy Communion

P: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, gives everyone a place at the welcome table. Alleluia! Share in the abundant feast.

"Shepherd's Psalm"

Hall/McDonald

Please take this reflection time to share the Lord's Supper at home with these words.

"The body of Christ, given for you."

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

A blessing may be given to those who do not yet commune, perhaps using these words:

"God bless you, beloved child of God."

"Jesus loves you."

Blessing after Communion

P: Now may the body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction and Sending

P: May God lead you to places of rest and renewal;
May Christ Jesus give you life in abundance;
And may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness and generosity.

C: Amen.

P: Go now in peace, listening for the voice of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Permission is freely granted by Laughing Bird liturgical resources to use the parts of the liturgy contained in this service, specifically, the adaptation of the Confession and Forgiveness, and the Benediction and Sending.

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We will be mailing a newsletter in the near future. If you wish to include some news, please email Rhoda by Wednesday, May 6: christlutheran@christcotton.com

Thank you - The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online **with the following link:** <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>

Ways to Connect for Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter **YouTube link—**

https://youtu.be/6mCu_IYbK5A

Local Cable Channel 180: Sunday at 10:45 a.m. AND Monday at 4:30 p.m.

Children's Resources

Video including Psalm 23, Scripture read and interpreted by young children – a thank you to Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Warrenville IL.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMyYuYMck98>

Video includes a puppet, Douglas, who learns how Jesus is our shepherd and we are his sheep – a thank you to Douglas Talks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pu7L0ZwAJ0o>

Visit our congregation's website for updated information as it becomes available:

<http://www.christcottonwood.org>

Like us on Facebook - Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

If you have questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please contact us:

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Administrative Assistant Rhoda Schmidt - 507.423.5100 (church office)

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Landyn Berends	Dean Berg	Bob Bode	Mark Bode
Elaine Elston	Irene Evers	Norm Evers	Gordy Geistfeld
Gail Gregoire	Bruce Hoffman	Diane Hoiland	Tara (Wisdorf) Iyer
Grant Johnson	Bob Kaeter	Teri Kemmer	Cole Louwagie
Linda Magnuson	Pr. Curt Miller	Jori Ella Morrison	Gretchen Noon
Ione Olson	Savannah Rausch	Joyce St. Pierre	Harvey Suer
Kelsey Sullivan, niece of Gwen Arneson		Gary Vossen	

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Shi Aamodt, Arvilla Berg, Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Irene Evers, Lavonne Fischer, Marge Gigstad, Janet Gniffke, Adrian Golberg, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, Marge Seitz

Families of our Congregation.

Dustin and Desiree Grunewald, McKenzy, Myha
Scott and Jeanine Hanson, Kollin, Kylie

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.

Charles and Anita Jackson/World Mission Prayer League

Comfort and peace for the Family of David Vandelonatte as they grieve his death.
Comfort and peace for the Family of Paul Lund Sr. as they grieve his death (father of Greg Lund –Mary, and uncle of Karen Berg).