GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalm 100:3

LARGE PRINT EDITION



April 27, 2025 — Second Sunday of Easter

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection. We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

The Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – **ELW** (red book)
All Creation Sings – **ACS** (purple book)

Page numbers (P.) in front of the red hymnal, (#) in back of ELW/ACS congregational responses in **bold**; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

GATHERING

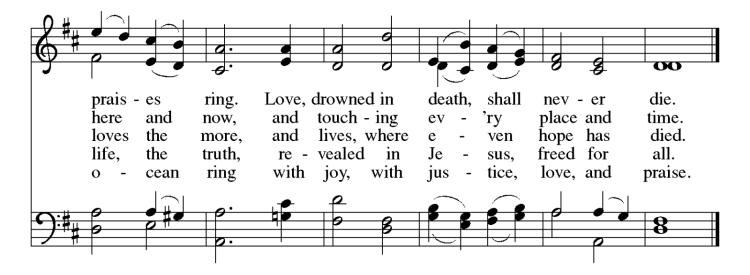
PRAYER BELL - PRELUDE: Spring, mvt. III - Antonio Vivaldi

The prelude is a time when we allow the musical offering to quiet our hearts and minds as we prepare for worship.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing





*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**.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray... Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 150

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise God in the ¹ holy temple; praise God in the ¹ mighty firmament.
- ² Praise God for | mighty acts; praise God for ex- | ceeding greatness.
- ³ Praise God with | trumpet sound; praise God with | lyre and harp.

- ⁴ Praise God with tambou- | rine and dance; praise God with | strings and pipe.
- ⁵ Praise God with re- | sounding cymbals; praise God with loud | clanging cymbals.
- ⁶ Let everything | that has breath praise the LORD. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:





You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Believing Thomas

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 390 The Risen Christ



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Response is: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

*PEACE OF CHRIST: The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Christos Anesti – Byzantine hymn, sung in Greek

Christ is risen from the dead,

Trampling down death by death,

And upon those in the tombs,

Bestowing life!

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος

*OFFERTORY SONG: ELW 674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (verses 1 and 2)



- us tal ents and tongues em ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
- Christ is a ble to make us one. the ta - ble he sets the tone.
- Je sus calls us in. sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless. gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard. love in word and in deed ex - press. God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

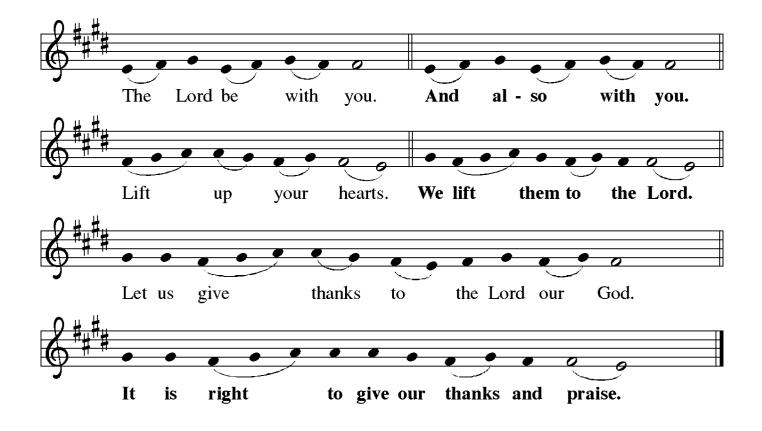
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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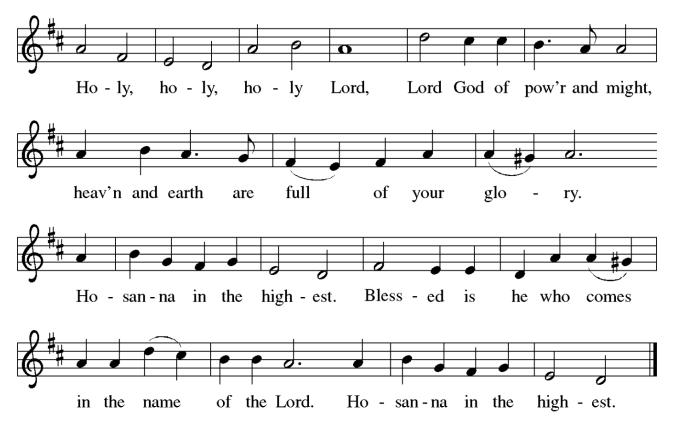
*OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray... Amen.

*INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION: In the early Church, Christians were forbidden to kneel during the fifty days of Easter Rejoicing. Therefore, we will stand to receive communion today.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:



It is indeed right... join their unending hymn:



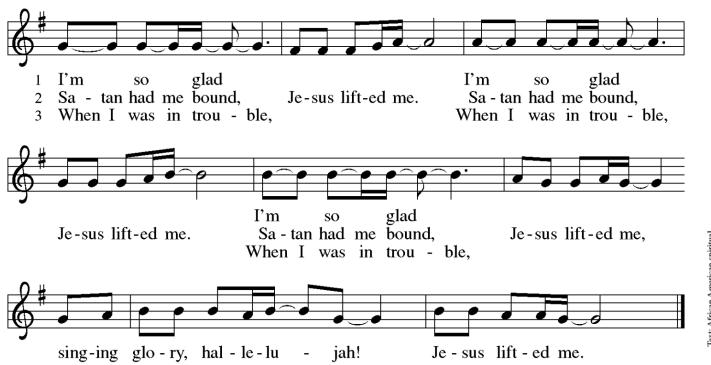
*WORDS OF INSTITUTION - THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

HOLY COMMUNION: All are welcome at Christ's table.

- Worshippers will stand at the altar rail.
- Communion is served in the pews for those who wish to remain seated.
- If you prefer only a blessing, indicate by placing your hands over your heart.
- Gluten and dairy free bread and red wine/white grape juice are available to all.
- Egg-free wheat wafers are also available.
- Please place your wine and juice cups in the tray as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 860 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



SPECIAL MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE MARTIN/MARTIN-HINER/THOMPSON

FAMILY: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need – American folk hymn, arr. Mack Wilberg

HYMN: ELW 869 We Have Seen the Lord (Linda Martin and congregation; see hymnal for music)

Text: African American spiritual Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

ELW 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives



Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

TABLE BLESSING – PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

GRATITUDE FOR PASTOR APRIL

SENDING LITANY - written by Jane Jakoubek

Pastor April, we give thanks for your preaching. You have proclaimed the Good News of the Gospel at a time when we are beset by so much in our nation and own lives. We give thanks for your unwavering affirmation of God's love and welcome for all.

May your preaching and witness to God's love continue to bear good fruit in our hearts and lives.

We give thanks for your ministry to the sick, those in care facilities, the dying and the grieving. Thank you for your steadfast and prayerful pastoral care.

May your care for us in our times of need continue to bring healing and hope.

We give thanks for your leadership for Council, the Call Committee, our committees and Flocks. We give thanks for your leadership for our staff amidst change. We give thanks for the challenges big and small you took on these past eight months to help Good Shepherd be ready to welcome our new pastor.

May your wise and caring leadership continue to bear good fruit in our life together as a congregation.

We give thanks for your deep life of prayer and daily immersion in scripture. We give thanks for your faithful discernment, first in coming to serve Good Shepherd again and then in all the pastoral matters this time has brought.

May God continue to feed you through Word and sacrament, study and prayer, as you live into all that your life brings in the days to come.

We give thanks for all you did that is known only to a few or to God. We give thanks that you have walked among us bearing the love and light of Jesus.

May God's light and love continue to transform our hearts, souls, and congregation.

We give thanks for Judd and his faithful service that has supported and provided for you, served Good Shepherd, brought us more of Ben's music, and made your service here possible.

Pastor April, may God bless you as you return to your beloved family and all that this season of your life brings. May you hear God's proclamation over you now, "well done, good and faithful servant."

BLESSING SONG: As You Go On Your Way

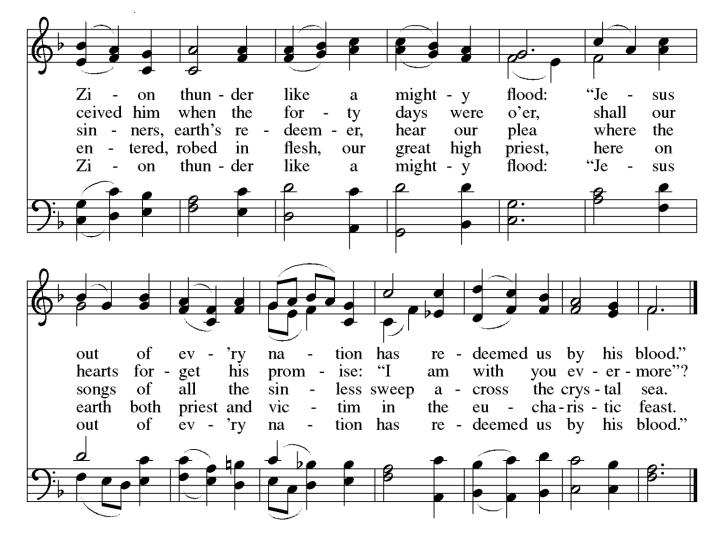
As you go on your way, may Christ go with you May he go before you to show you the way May he go behind you to encourage you Beside you to befriend you Above you to watch over Within you to give you peace

*BLESSING

*SENDING SONG: ELW 392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (verses 1 and 5)



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887



DISMISSAL: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed.** Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER BELL – POSTLUDE: O Lord, Now Let Your Servant Go in Peace – arr. David Cherwien

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY: PREACHING AND

PRESIDING: Pastor April Ulring Larson; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; VIOLINIST: Anishka Vogl; ASSISTING MINISTER: Melanie Folkerts; LECTOR/READER: Jim Fritz; USHERS: Dave Peterson, Larry Danielson; GREETER: Betty Danielson; AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Carter Thompson; FELLOWSHIP: Liz Fritz, Luther Snow, Catherine Hildebrandt, Lise Kildegaard, Betty Danielson.

INVITATION TO ALL:

Gather: You are invited to gather together in the Fellowship Hall after worship today to celebrate and share gratitude with Pastor.

Speak: Those who desire to share a few, brief personal words of gratitude, memory, or story about Pastor April's ministry are invited to sign-up on a sheet which President Chris Johnson will have. Chris will also "emcee" this opportunity to share the microphone.

Contribute to Pastor April's Gift: Good Shepherd will be announcing our thank-you gift to Pastor April at the conclusion of worship today. If you desire to personally contribute toward



this churchwide, charitable gift in Pastor April's honor, you may do so by placing your contribution in the container that is available on the gift table in the Fellowship Hall, or within the next week, bring or mail your contribution to the church office.

Recipes: Pastor April expressed that the gift she would really treasure, would be recipes collected from the great chefs of Good Shepherd! Please share some of your favorite soup recipe or other recipe with Pastor April by dropping those in the container provided on the gift table, or mail, drop off, or email the recipes to Tristan in the church office within the next week. A small committee will assemble the recipes and send them to Pastor April.

Thank you for your expressions of affection and gratitude for Pastor April!

—the Good Shepherd Church Council

PASTOR SUSAN FRIEDRICH BEGINS AS INTERIM PASTOR MAY 1st: Pastor

Susan will serve until mid-June when Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt begins her call to Good Shepherd. Pastor Susan's office hours and contact information will be available next week. She has served 25 years as a minister in the ELCA, most recently as an Interim Pastor for the Northeastern lowa Synod. She is also Secretary of the Synod. Pastor Susan and her husband Norman are members of Good Shepherd.

epic scholarship Applications are DUE THURSDAY, MAY 1st: Any member of Good Shepherd attending an ELCA college or university full-time can apply for an epic scholarship from good shepherd. Completed applications must be returned to the church office by May 1. Applications are available in the church office and have been mailed to current recipients and high school seniors.

ADULT FORUM SUNDAY, MAY 4th - REFLECTIONS ON SPENDING FIVE WEEKS IN PALESTINE: Hannah Breckbill, co-farmer of Humble Hands Harvest, will share stories and reflections about the five weeks she spent in Palestine this winter, providing international accompaniment at Tent of Nations, a Palestinian-owned farm near Bethlehem. Tent of Nations is owned by the Nassar family, an Arab Palestinian Lutheran family who are friends of George Lowe and Martha Monson Lowe.

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Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. There are no time constraints to our care for others as we offer their needs up to God. People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Lise Kildegaard
- Anne Clausen
- Bob Wilson
- Mickey Slind
- Scott Barnes
- Jon Wendling
- Elizabeth Hermeier
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- Haisleigh children's hospital, Iowa City

- Wanda Rueber
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Scott Ulring
- Phillip Swanson
- Harland Nelson
- Dennis Martin, Marv & Mickey Slind's brother-in-law
- Ingrid Callaghan
- Carrie Solberg
- Jutta Anderson

Those in a time of crisis:

 Mike Sammons, our staff custodian, and his family (Rachael Mun and daughters Althea and Eleanor), in the wake of a house fire

Those who grieve:

- Pete and Kari Espinosa and their families, upon the deaths of Pete's sister on Sunday, March 23rd and Kari's nephew on Tuesday, March 18th.
- Glendalu Wuest and family, upon the death of her husband Dick Wuest on Monday, March 3rd.

Those serving the needs of others:

- Martha Monson Lowe
- Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response
- Pastor Kathryn Thompson as she serves higher education students through LuMin in La Crosse

To have a prayer request added to or removed from the Prayer List, please email Tristan at office@goodshepherddecorah.org or call (563) 382-3963.

Good Shepherd Worship Schedule

Today, Sunday, April 27th: Second Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:30 AM; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion Preaching and Presiding: Pastor April Ulring Larson Celebration of Gratitude for Pastor April: 11:00 AM; Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 4th: Third Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:30 AM; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Susan Friedrich

Fellowship Time: 10:45 AM; Fellowship Hall; treats provided by the Orange Flock

Adult Forum: Reflections on Spending Five Weeks in Palestine: 11:00 AM; Gathering Space

Sunday, May 11th: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Worship at 9:30 AM; Sanctuary; with Holy Communion

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Susan Friedrich

Fellowship Time: 10:45 AM; Fellowship Hall; treats provided by the Orange

Flock

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther College Students! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship — follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE!

The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags is available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. Find the full statement at **goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement** or by scanning the code.



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor April Ulring Larson
(563) 217-0741
pastorapril@goodshepherddecorah.org
Brooke Joyce; Music Director
Tristan Occhipinti; Office & Building Manager
Rylie Bucklin; Director of Children, Youth, and
Family Ministry
Mike Sammons; Custodian

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