

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

### **WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

Participants are invited to respond with the text in **bold type**.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.** 

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

### Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. Amen.

ASPERGES | The assembly may make the sign of the cross as water is sprinkled.





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
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# **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**

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.

### 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.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How 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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And 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. <sup>24</sup>All 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.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup> in green pastures and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

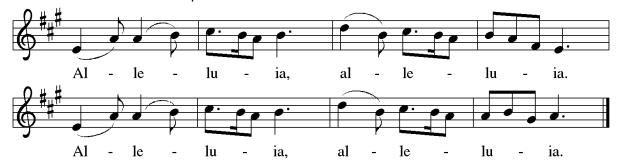
<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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# GOSPEL READING | 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.

# God is with you. And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I 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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No 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.

MESSAGE | Rev. Jim Muratore

# **BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

- When have you encountered rejection of your faith in Jesus? How did it challenge you? What came of the experience?
- How do you recognize the "sheep that do not belong to this fold?"

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

# A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Strengthen ecumenical and interfaith partnerships for the good of humanity. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Instill in us the compassion to actively care for people who are vulnerable. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Sharon and Erick, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Rosha and Ron, Buddy, Luke and Melissa, Jack, Amelia, Matt and Kelly, Michael, Noah, Landis, Trish, Roman, Pam, Jim, Charles, Joe, Katie and for all whom we now name.... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from distractions that keep us from following you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

#### **OFFERING**

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving. See announcements at the end of the bulletin.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

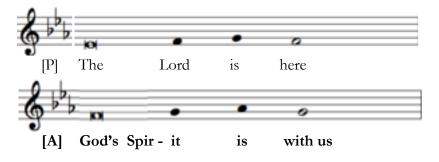
Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

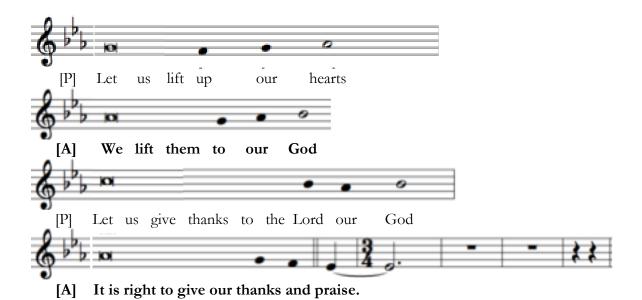
Amen.

### **COMMUNION**

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**





It is right that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.** 



And so we have this meal. Simplicity and mystery bound together. And though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

Blessed be God forever!

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is served by way of intinction. Come forward in a counter clockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. Receive the bread in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalices are filled with grapes juice, and the metal chalices are filled with win. The second station of chalices is reserved for gluten free recipients. If you wish not to receive you are welcome to remain seated or come forward with crossed arms to receive a blessing. ALL are welcome to come and receive without exception.



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# THERAPEUTIC YOGA | Saturdays, 10:00 am

All levels therapeutic yoga led by Yoga Christy begins this Saturday, March 30th! Sliding scale, \$11-\$111

# FEELINGS AND NEEDS EXPLORATION | Saturdays, 10:00 am

Feelings and Needs Exploration (FNE) is a method for expressing your feelings and identifying what motivates them: your underlying needs. Feelings and Needs Exploration (FNE) is a method for expressing your feelings and identifying what motivates them: your underlying needs. Pay-What-You-Can, Recommended \$35-\$350

# CRYSTAL MONDAYS | Beginning April 1st

Join Crystals with Nereus and Harmony Works from 6:30 – 8pm every Monday at St. Luke's Church on The Avenue to explore meditation, music, and minerals. We'll connect with crystals, enjoy sound baths, and learn how to use these grounded, healing tools in our everyday lives. Suggested Donation, \$22-\$222

**COME AND SEE!!!** So much is going on here at St. Luke's Church on the Avenue, please visit our website to view the calendar and explore links to activities happening every day! Visit us at <a href="https://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org">www.churchontheavenuehampden.org</a> or by scanning the QR Code below.

**Thank you** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <a href="http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org">http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org</a>. or by scanning the QR Code below.



### **BENEDICTION**

God is with you! And also with you!

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; May Spirit guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; May she bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders she has shown you; May she bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

# **SENDING HYMN** | Commonwealth is God's Commandment

ACS 1036



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar-ing lav ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac es, tribes, and na tions, hear the Ho ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel-come an - gels un - a - ware. stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man - y folds. bid - ding all to work to - geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre - a - tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!