



# Holy Communion

Resurrection Lutheran Church  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

*Resurrection is a congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

**Welcome to Worship  
At Resurrection Lutheran Church**



***Our HOLY PURPOSE***

It is our holy purpose as Resurrection People to respond to God's grace by being instruments of transformation and love in our surrounding community. We are called to welcome ALL people, nurture them in faith, equip them for the shared work of ministry, and serve others that ALL may know God's love.

**We welcome you** to our community of faith. Many things are different from our usual during this time of pandemic precautions. We ask that you follow all precautions that we have put in place as we strive to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbor and be mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

**Children are welcome in church!** God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to our whole community when the youngest of us are present. Sitting alongside of parents and other adults and learning to treasure times of worship together builds strong faith. We will re-open our nursery at some point in the future, but it is not safe for us to do so yet.

*We ask that after worship concludes that you not congregate in the sanctuary or in the narthex. If you wish to visit with other worship participants, please do so outside of the building.*

# HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*

## GATHERING

### Prelude

*Upon entering the sanctuary, we help to create a worshipful environment by keeping movement and noise to a minimum. The time may be used for prayer, pre-reading the scriptures or hymns for the day, or simply preparing the soul for an encounter with God.*

### Welcome and Greetings

### Easter Proclamation

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

### Invocation and Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

C **Amen.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## Greeting

*The presiding minister and congregation greet each other.*

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise

*Assured of the Lord's pardon and peace, we stand joyfully in God's presence as today's vocalists sing these words of scripture from the book of Revelation that point to the great heavenly feast.*

## Prayer of the Day

*The presiding minister “collects” the thoughts for the main theme of today’s worship in this historic ecumenical prayer also called “the collect,” appointed for this day.*

P 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.

C **Amen.**

## WORD

### First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today’s reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name to the religious authorities.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Lesson

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.

L Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## 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.*

P The holy gospel according to John.

**C 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."

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy” ELW 587

*While we cannot sing as a congregation, we share these words on the screen for your reflection.*

### Nicene Creed

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the Church

*We gather our individual and communal intercessions and thanksgivings, remembering our connection to the universal church on earth and in heaven. During indicated times of silence, we may remember names in silence or speak them aloud in the assembly of God's people. After each "Hear us O, God." all may respond with "Your mercy is great."*

## The Peace

*After the exchange of peace with the pastor and the online congregation, worshipers are invited to make a pandemic appropriate gesture of peace – a wave, "air hug," etc. – with each other.*

## MEAL

### Holy Communion

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.**

P Shepherding God, we praise and thank you  
because you gathered your flock around Abraham, ...

where angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven,  
sing your unending praise.

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

P Sustaining God, as you lead your sheep to green pastures  
and guide them beside still waters, ...

“Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P Great is the mystery of faith.

**C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

P Saving God, your rod and staff comfort all who look to you in faith.  
Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home. ...

Shepherd us with all your saints of every age into your glorious presence,  
where we shall behold your Lamb in seated glory,  
most Holy Trinity, now and always.

**C Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

## Distribution

P The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

*The Lord's Table is open to all Christians. Adults and children who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing their arms across their chest. The flow for distribution is intended to ensure that nobody speaks or stands over the communion elements without a face covering. Allow the pastor to drop the bread into your outstretched hands. Help yourself to an individual cup of wine and then step into the open space to remove your mask and consume the bread and wine. Place your empty cup in the basket as you return to your seat. (WHITE grape juice is in the center of each tray.)*

## Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## Blessing

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## Dismissal

*We are dismissed in joy and peace, exiting the door of the church as a "servant's entrance" into our work in the world.*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

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

## Postlude







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