
∞ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ∞
ORDER OF WORSHIP • APRIL 21, 2024 • 9:00 AM
✝ Indicates the congregation should stand as able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✝ GATHERING HYMN CHRIST IS LIVING, STANZAS 1 & 2
TUNE: AUSTRIA

**Christ is living! Gone with sorrow!
Tears and terror, be no more.
Death and grave, you now are nothing;
Christ is free of ev'ry pow'r.
Why then seek the living Savior
in the haunts of death and fear?
Christ is risen! Shout the good news
so that all the world may hear.**

**For if Christ is not arisen
there is nothing to believe.
Jesus' promise is accomplished:
"Since I live, you too shall live."
Dust we are, to dust returning,
but in Christ we are restored.
Doubt dispelling, claim the triumph:
Jesus is the living Lord!**

✝ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

✝ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead
comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will
be made alive. Trusting in God's promise, let us confess our sin.

All: **Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the
power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to
doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We
overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls
for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.**

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

WL: Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear the good news:

Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, all our sins have been forgiven. We are washed clean by the blood of the Lamb and are renewed and restored as the children of God.

✠ GATHERING HYMN

CHRIST IS LIVING, STANZA 3

TUNE: AUSTRIA

**Death is swallowed up in vict'ry;
sin has lost its poison sting.
Life will blossom from the grain sown,
Christ the first fruits of the spring.
For the sureness of salvation
let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"
Christ is risen! We are living!
Spread the word of grace abroad.**

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WL: 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.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 4:1-12

R: The first lesson for this Fourth Sunday of Easter is from the fourth chapter of Acts.

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.’

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 3:16-24

R: The Second lesson is from First John, chapter 3.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ VERSE

BE NOT AFRAID!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

✠ HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 10:11-18

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

All: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life— only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

TODAY’S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION
LSB #507

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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Text-to-Give by texting an amount to 407.543.1011

OFFERING SONG PSALM 23 – THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

*Quietly and continuously repeat “The Lord is my shepherd”
while the cantor proclaims the text of Psalm 23*

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

All: 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.

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST

LBW #210

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

✝ CHARGE & BLESSING

based on Psalm 121:5-8

WL: Go out now in faith and with courage, trusting in God's promises.
Remember how much God loves this world and loves you. Live and
serve with love and joy, following in the footsteps of Christ.

May the Lord watch over you. May the Lord keep you from all harm
and watch over your life. May the Lord watch over your coming and
going now and forevermore.

All: **Amen.**

✝ SENDING HYMN PRAISE THE LORD, RISE UP REJOICING LBW #196

✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the risen Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.

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CHRIST IS LIVING

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BE NOT AFRAID

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

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