

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fourth Sunday of Easter ☩ April 25, 2021 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Minister Mardy Ringer, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Preacher
Llewon Felder, Guest Musician, with others from St. Mark Lutheran Church

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW* = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)



PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- ☐ Christ is risen.
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☐ Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
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.
Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

led by Musicians from St. Mark Lutheran Church

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

- ☐ 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.**

LESSON: 1 John 3:16-24 (*The Message*)

□ The Lesson is from the first letter of the Apostle John, the third chapter.

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.

¹⁸⁻²⁰My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

²¹⁻²⁴And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

□ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

ELW Hymn 377

**1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**5 City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain**

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SERMON TEXT: Revelation 3:1-6

□ Today's text is from Revelation, the third chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. ³Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

□ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Minister Mardy Ringer

HYMN OF THE DAY

led by Musicians from St. Mark Lutheran Church

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our baptismal faith together.**C** **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 THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." Please respond, "Your mercy is great."**The prayers end with these words, "In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

THE 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.****P** It is indeed right, our duty and our delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation; and so, with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

THE 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.**

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church in the sanctuary or remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *That Priceless Grace**ELW Hymn 591*

1 That priceless grace, that priceless grace, that priceless grace, which gave me life:
Jesus’ life is priceless grace. That priceless grace is life for me.

4 That precious word, that precious word, that precious word, which brought me light:
Jesus’ word is priceless grace. That priceless grace is life for me.

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PASTORAL BLESSING**BENEDICTION**

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.

CLOSING HYMN*led by Musicians from St. Mark Lutheran Church***DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news.
Invite everyone to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Altar Guild: Peg Schaum and Pat Ronco

Tech Crew: Brad Milburn, Sara Turk, David Turk, Debra Myers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Linda Volckmann in celebration of Cortland Crosby’s 13th birthday.