

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
April 21, 2024
11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)*
↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled communion "kit" that is grape juice and a gluten free wafer. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit.

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
☑ **Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

↑ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

- ☐ The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always
☑ **And also with you.**
We share a sign of God's peace.

↑ GATHERING HYMN *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

ELW Hymn 531

- 1 **The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

Refrain-Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight. Come and revel in heaven's love and light.
Take your place at the table of the King. The feast is ready to begin; the feast is ready to begin.

- 2 **Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine. *Refrain***

- 3 **The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. *Refrain***

Text and music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

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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 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.**

FIRST READING 1 John 3:16-24

see insert

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Be Not Afraid*

ELW Hymn 388

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

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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↑ GOSPEL John 10:11-18

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY *Shepherd Me, O God*

ELW Hymn 780

Refrain

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

- 1 **God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain***
- 2 **Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain***
- 3 **Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain***
- 4 **You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain***
- 5 **Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

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↑ AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Imanuela Agada	Josef Agada	Greyson Harris
Jordan Keil	Aubrey Riecke	Benjamin White

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "God of grace," please respond, "Hear our prayer."
 The prayers are ended with these words, "Into your hands, most merciful God,... through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.

MUSICAL OFFERING *The Words I Would Say, Sidewalk Prophets
 Kendra Campbell-Milburn, Brad Milburn*



↑ **PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

ℙ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

☩ **Amen.**

↑ **SENDING HYMN** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW Hymn 815

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain

**In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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↑ **SENDING**

ℙ Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

☩ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

↑ **POSTLUDE**

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Altar Guild: Carol Talbott, Judy Owen

Lector: The Confirmands

Tech crew: Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn, Joni Siepert

Usher: John Musil, Paul Talbott

Altar flowers given by Joni Siepert in memory of our beloved mother, Helen Siepert

THE LESSONS

Sunday, April 21

FIRST READING: 1 John 3:16-24

L The first reading is from 1st John, the 3rd chapter.

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

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

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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 The Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter. **G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

