

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 21, 2024
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday and Earth Day

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the Gospel of John. This season, we will hear stories of belonging. Like Russian nesting dolls, we abide in Christ and Christ abides in God. Alleluia!

Centering Music: For the Beauty of the Earth Medley
arr. Marcia Wells

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 23)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Thought 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.

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

Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

Thanksgiving for Baptism on Earth Day

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

The beauty of the Creator inspire us,
the grace of the † Good Shepherd be with us,
and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Water may be poured into the font as the community gives thanks. Children are invited forward to interact with the waters of baptism.

Here is water.
Rushing water. Surging water.
Pounding, crashing surf of water.
Foaming waters to wash us clean,
to scrub away the guilt, the burden that clings,
to wipe away the grime of archived fear.
Blessed be water.

**We give you thanks, Creator God,
for sea and ocean, tides and waves.**

Here is water.
Tumbling water. Streaming water.
Free-flowing-shower-of-grace water.
Bubbling fount to soothe our hearts,
balm for the scars of angry division,
salve for the wounds of ignorant pride.
Blessed be water.

**We give you thanks, creative Word,
for rain and snow, storm and mist.**

Here is water.
Clear water. Cool water.
Quench-the-thirst-of-our-soul water.
Still waters to restore our spirits, source of hope,
refreshment for the journey toward the fold,
sparkling with the promise of new life.
Blessed be water.

**We give you thanks, creating Spirit,
for stream and pool, spring and lake.**

Here is water,
through which God created and continues to create.
In the beginning, weaving with the Breath of life
every living being;
throughout history, a gateway for divine deliverance;
in every moment, re-memorating the mystery of life,
bonding all of creation as one.

We give you thanks, blessed Creator, for the gift of life,
for this water without which life would cease,
for the gift of baptism,
through which these waters birth us again
into your promise of newness, wholeness, and oneness.

Blessed be Creator God,

creative † Word,
 creating Spirit.
 Blessed be each soul here and not here,
 one people, one with all that is.
 Blessed be this water that births us,
 renews us, and welcomes us home.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

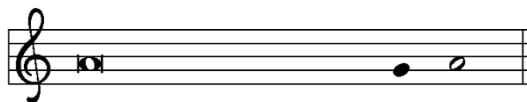
Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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.

Kyrie:

Setting 4



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



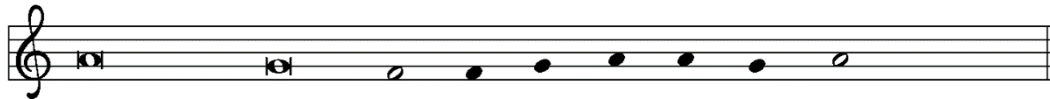
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



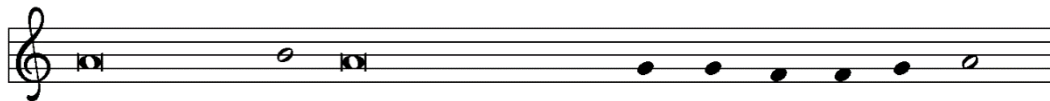
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle: This is the Feast

Setting 4

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Scripture 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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

[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.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Pastor Tim Maybee

The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re-store a-gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta-ble thou hast rich-ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
 5 Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me,



in pas-tures green; he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.
 with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com-fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.
 and in God's house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.
 with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com-fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.
 and in God's house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

Confession of Faith

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

**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 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. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. We pray especially today for our partners in Magulilwa, Tanzania and at China Service Ventures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and 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. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel. 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 the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don't have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God's work in the world.

Offering Song: My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

ELW 782

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

Offering Prayer

Risen One,

whatever we ask, in accordance with your will, we receive and our cup overflows. Confident in divine abundance and humbly eager to turn from covetous greed, we return what we have received for the Shepherd's work, that green pastures and safe folds will welcome any who live in fear; that peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts; that a voice of welcome will be heard at each gate; that a feast will be

prepared for all who hunger and thirst; and all may safely graze. In the name of the One who is our comfort.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This is the day that in joy and delight
We join with all the angels of heaven and all creatures on earth
To sing our praise and thanksgiving to you,
All holy and mighty and glorious God.
For Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day that you gave light to the earth.
This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea
And with your pillar of fire led them to freedom.
Now every night is brightened
With the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

This is the day that you broke the chains of death.
This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth,
You washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace.
The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign,
For Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sung Words of Institution



3. So, we thank You for _ the wine _ and for the bread; _ For we



see the life _ You gave _ and the blood You _ shed. And we re -

-mem - ber Your won - drous _ love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _
 blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous _
 love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _ blood.

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Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Invitation

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of bread. Come and eat at God's table! Amen.

Distribution

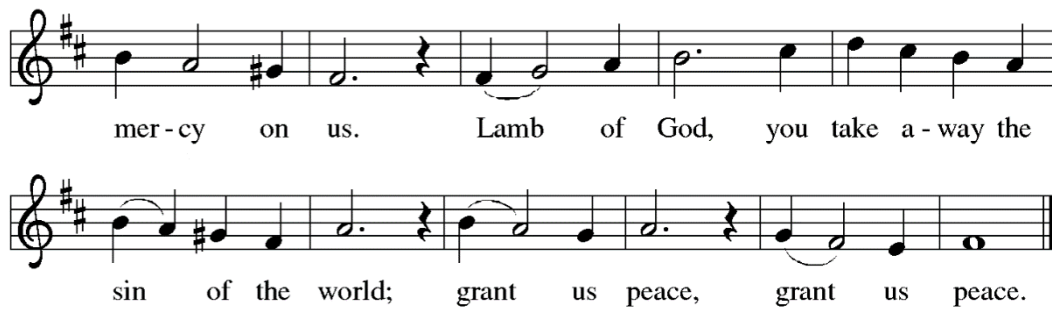
P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion Songs: Lamb of God

Setting 4

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

This Is My Father's World
Shepherd, Like a Savior Lead Us
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW 824
ELW 789
ELW 502

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
 Amen.

Announcements

Benediction

Little children, sheep of the Good Shepherd:
 As we journey toward the fold,
 we travel through the valley of shadow,
 growing in grace, becoming a blessing.
 Baptismal wells restore our souls,
 a rich feast is spread by divine abundance,
 and divisions end as our cup overflows.
 Amen.

Sending Hymn: Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv-ing a song of thanks-giv-ing to
 2 God rules all the forc-es: the stars in their cours-es and
 God the cre-a-tor tri-um-phant-ly raise,
 sun in its or-bit o-be-dient-ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the
 still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.
 God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -
 fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise
 till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To
 for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Journey gently on this planet's green pasture.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude: Let All Things Now Living

arr. Robert Wetzler