

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024

8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church warmly welcomes people of any age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, life circumstance, and physical or mental capability.

*You are invited to stand

∞ GATHERING ∞

PRELUDE

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”
-Daniel Burton

Gay Lyn Ferry

WELCOME

*LITANY FOR CREATION AND CONFESSION

P Whoever we are and wherever we come from, we share the reality that this earth is our home. So we come at this moment to remind ourselves of the truth that the ways in which we live within this earth home affect for good or ill the home itself and all that dwells within it. Open to the moment, therefore, and open to one another we come before the mystery of life.

We join with the earth and with one another to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.

C **We join with the earth and with one another,**

P to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.

C **We join with the earth and with one another,**

P to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.

C **We join with the earth and with one another,**

P to create human community, to promote justice and peace, to eradicate poverty and inequality, to remember the generations yet to come.

C **We join with the earth and with one another.**

P We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery, for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

C **Amen!**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sins against creation to our creator God and to one another.

Silence for meditation

- P** Holy God,
- G** you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Sometimes we are part of the just, and sometimes we are part of the unjust. You have given us incredible gifts of water, soil, air, plants, and animals that sustain our lives. When we are ungrateful, forgive us. When we forget to take care of these resources, forgive us. When we hoard these resources and keep them from others who need them, forgive us. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us to refresh us and renew us so that we can use the gifts you have given in us to care for each other and for our earth.
- P** By the mercies of our creator God, and by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
- G** Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Earth and All Stars!”

ELW #731

***GREETING**

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

***KYRIE** *(Sung)*

front of ELW pg.147

- A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** 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. **G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **G** **Amen.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *(Sung)*

front of ELW pg. 149

- A** This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- G** **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

L A reading from Genesis

At conclusion of reading

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Pew Bible, Page 1

L The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *(Sung Responsively)*

Psalm 104:1, 10-24

A Bless the LORD, O my soul; O LORD my God, you are ^l very great!
You are clothed with majes- ^l ty and splendor.

C You made the springs ^l into rivers that flow be- ^l tween the mountains.

A All the animals drink their ^l fill from them, and the wild donkeys ^l quench their thirst.

C Beside them the birds of the air ^l make their nests;
among the branches they ^l lift their voice.

A From your dwelling on high, you wa- ^l ter the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit ^l of your works.

C You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve ^l humankind;
that they may bring forth food ^l from the earth,

A wine to gladden human hearts, oil to ^l make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the ^l human heart.

C The trees of the LORD are ^l well supplied,
the cedars of Lebanon ^l that you

planted,

A in which the birds ^l build their nests, while the stork makes the fir ^l trees its dwelling.

C The high hills belong to the ^l mountain goats,
and the stony cliffs are a refuge ^l for the badgers.

A You made the moon to ^l mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time ^l of its setting.

C You bring on darkness that it ^l may be night,
in which all the beasts of the ^l forest prowl.

A The lions roar ^l for their prey seeking their ^l food from God.

C The sun rises, and ^l they withdraw and lay themselves down ^l in their dens.

A People go forth ^l to their work and to their labor un- ^l til the evening.

C How manifold are your ^l works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full ^l of your creatures.

SECOND READING

📖 A reading from Romans.

At conclusion of reading

Romans 12:1-2

Pew Bible, Page 1033

📖 The Word of the Lord. 🎵 **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(Sung)*

front of ELW pg. 151

🎵 Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, Alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

📖 The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 6:25-26

🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pew Bible, Page 882

At conclusion of reading

📖 The gospel of the Lord. 🎵 **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

Pastor Karen Boda

***HYMN OF DAY**

“God of the Fertile Fields”

ACS #1063

Words: Georgia Harkness; Music: Felice de Giardini; Words © 1955, 1983 The Hymn Society



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

***NICENE CREED**

☩ 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 INTERCESSION**

The Assisting Minister will close each petition with the words, "We pray." worshippers respond with the words, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

***PEACE**

☩ The Peace of the Lord be with you always. ☩ And also with you.

(Please greet one another with a friendly word or gesture of God's peace.)



OFFERING

The "Who's Who in the Pew" pads are passed as the offering is received. For online giving, see the QR code on the back page.

OFFERING ANTHEM

"The Earth Is The Lord's"

Chancel Choir

-Words by Wes Hannibal; Music by Diane Hannibal; Arranged by Roger Thornhill

***OFFERING HYMN**

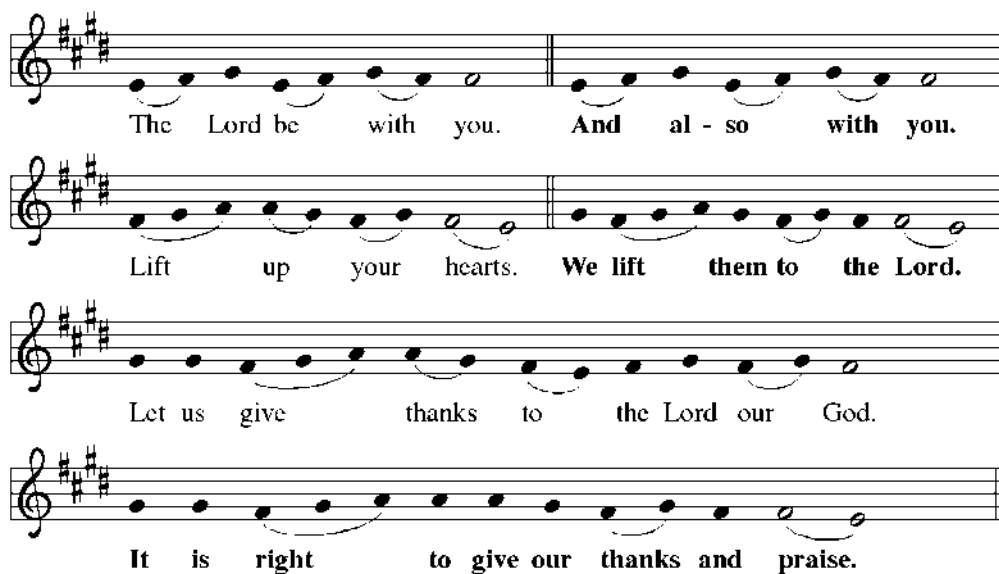
"Be Not Afraid"

ELW #388

***OFFERING PRAYER**

☩ Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. ☩ Amen.

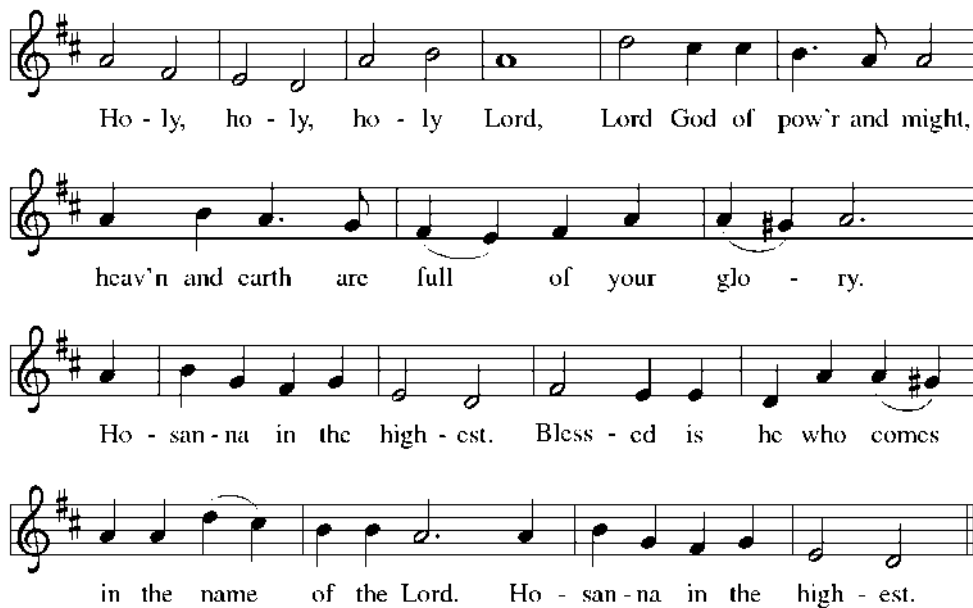
*GREAT THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P

It is indeed right...praise your name and join your unending hymn



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

☑ 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“This Is My Father’s World”

ELW #824

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

☐ May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. ☑ Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Let us pray. 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

SENDING

*BLESSING

- ☞ 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 “Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom” ACS #1064

Words: Adam M. L. Tice; Music: W. Moore; Words © 2009 GIA Publications; Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

While singing the Hymn, the congregation will process (weather permitting) outside to the “Garden of Grace”.



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

*BLESSING OF THE GARDEN

Adapted from The Blessing of the Garden written by Joshua Paul Smith. Christ Church Cape Girardeau, The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. May 10, 2022.

- ☞ Let us pray. God of earthworms and compost, God of fertilizer and dirty fingernails, God of field and furrow:

In the beginning you created human beings in your image, giving us a lush and abundant garden to be our home together with you;

When we were lost and wandering in exile you provided water and manna to sustain us;

By your prophet Jeremiah you urged your people Israel to build houses and plant gardens, even when they were uprooted and far from home; And in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus Christ to scatter the seeds of your Word, to proclaim the coming of your Kingdom, and to give your blessing to all who hunger:

We ask your blessing now upon this garden, that it may faithfully provide food for those in our community.

A volunteer lifts a shovelful (or handful) of soil from the garden and distributes it.

Creator God, bless this soil, that it may nourish the vegetables and herbs planted here, strengthening their roots and encouraging their growth by the prayers of this community.

☞ Lord, hear our prayer.

A volunteer uses a watering can to sprinkle water over the garden bed.

P Lord Jesus Christ, who gives Living Water so that none may be thirsty: Bless this water, the most basic necessity of life, that it may carry nutrients from the soil to the plants, making them healthy, green, and full of life.

☞ Lord, hear our prayer.

Set a pair of work gloves onto a garden post.

P Holy Spirit, our comforter and friend, who brings near those who were once far-off: Bless the volunteers who will help tend this garden and also those who will receive its gifts, that their work may produce the good fruit of hospitality and friendship, bearing witness to your holy love, faithfulness, and service.

☞ Lord, hear our prayer.

P We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ the Sower, who plants in our hearts the seeds of mercy and loving-kindness. **☞ Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Care for creation!

☞ Thanks be to God!

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Looking for all the news for our Youth? Be sure to read your [Wednesday, Weekly Lamb Buzz](#) Email. Some exciting things are happening at GSLC for all ages of our youth. Access each week on our website at gslutheran.org/youth under the Youth Tab or sign-up to be on the e-mail list.

Sign up to receive our weekly SHEEP BUZZ



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<p>GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF</p> <p>Rev. Karen Boda Interim Pastor</p> <p>Pam Weinelt . Praise Team Coordinator</p> <p>Melina Thurmond Youth/Family</p> <p>..... Ministry Coordinator</p>	<p>..... & Office Coordinator</p> <p>Donna Garges Media Coordinator</p> <p>Carrie Escamilla Bookkeeper</p> <p>Aaron Frink Custodian</p> <p>Gay Lyn Ferry Supply Organist</p>
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A nursery room is available with an audio/visual of the service. Please consult with an usher if you need assistance. This service is being livestreamed to our Facebook page [@gslcwoodstock](#). It will be uploaded to our YouTube channel following the service.

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