



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

Second Sunday of Easter

Service with Communion

April 7th, 2024

This worship is being live streamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers’ response, and * means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Lorin Divine

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Gordy Sessions*

Acolyte: *Nate Miller*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Dave Blicher, Jim Oebser, Tim Jenson*

GATHERING

* GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LBW#315- all verses

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come
down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful
mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with
thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled
breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy
promised rest. Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as
its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life
receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy
temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee
without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us
be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly
restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our
crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM Blessed be the holy Trinity, † the wellspring of grace, our Easter
and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The
ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people
passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your
boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty God, **with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's
resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the
resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow

LBW#564

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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GROWING

Our first reading is from Acts, 4th chapter.

Acts 4:32-35 (NIV)

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading from Psalm 133 responsively.

Psalm 133 (NIV)

¹ How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

² **It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.**

³ It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Our second reading is from 1st John, 1st & 2nd chapter.

1 John 1:1-2:2 (NIV)

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

² My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

** Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel according to John 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20:19-31 (NIV)

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Jesus Appears to Thomas ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." The Purpose of John's Gospel ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE **"Needy People to Resurrection Living"**

Pastor Ron Gerl

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LBW#499

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

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*THE APOSTLES' CREED (professed together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

*Or, He descended to the dead. ** universal

*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.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (*especially Marshall Fuhrman, Lori Jenson, Sandy Kenefick, Ron Ros and Barb Barum*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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.

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.
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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Psalm: 51:10-12

Public Domain

*OFFERING PRAYER 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.**

*ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION 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.**
It is indeed right and salutary.....

*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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and drink what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER: 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.

*BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Sunday, April 21st 2024 at 10 am worship as we celebrate our graduating seniors. Join us as they are gifted the beautiful quilts made by Barb Vadnais and her mother, and as we hear their future plans after graduating.

WELCA will be providing cake after church in the fellowship hall.

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care, concern, cheer, or sympathy.

Please, let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.

- Sandy Kenefick: 2901 Forbes Ave. Apt. C313 Menomonie, WI 54751
- Lori Jenson: E8799 530th Ave. Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Audrey Bracher: Colfax Health & Rehab
110 Park Drive Room 310, Colfax, WI 54730
- Mary Ausman: E9556 490th Ave, Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Anita Clemmens: E8784 555th Lot 128, Elk Mound, WI 54739



Giving Through our Website

Our website now provides us with the opportunity to give donations on-line at any time without banking information. Most people are using credit cards today and not writing checks and now this includes the option of supporting the continuing work of Christ here at Shepherd of the Hill. Even if you only watch our streaming of worship services, you will now have the flexibility to make offerings from your home!

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