



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Third Sunday of Easter

Service with Communion/Baptism

April 14, 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: *Lisa Webb*

Acolyte: *Nate Miller*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Hailey Webb, Tim Jenson*

Serving Fellowship: *Judy & Lyn Dieter*

Today we welcome in Holy Baptism Morgan Jean Titel, Anna Lee Gurtner & Jean Ann Gurtner

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

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

WOV#675

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as none e’er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod; but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:

That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

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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, 3rd chapter.

Acts 3:12-19 (NIV)

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. ¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,
Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading Psalm 4 responsively.

Psalm 4 (NIV)

¹ Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

² **How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?**

³ Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴ **Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.**

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD.

⁶ **Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face shine on us.**

⁷ Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.

⁸ **In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

Our second reading is from 1st John, 3rd chapter.

1 John 3:1-7 (NIV)

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

** Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24:36b-48 (NIV)

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah.

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE **"Children, Let the Grail Go!"**

Pastor Ron Gerl

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Seek Ye First

WOV#783

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its
righteousness; and all these things shall be
added unto you. Allelu, alleluia

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and
you shall find, knock and the door shall be
opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia

We do not live by bread alone, but by
every word that proceeds from the
mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia

Text: Karen Lafferty

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(During this hymn the candidates may come forward around the baptismal font)

ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Pg 121 in LBW

Baptismal address by Pastor

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Address to candidates for baptism

P: Morgan, Anna and Jean, do you desire to be baptized?

R: *I do.*

P: In love you are presented for Holy Baptism. Will you continue to believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and willingly serve him using the gifts that God has bestowed upon you; and will you continue to bear witness to your faith and profess to live godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ? Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R: *I do.*

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (*together with the congregation who will please stand*)

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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

The Holy Baptism of Each Candidate

(the congregation may be seated)

P: Let us pray. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing these your daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Morgan, Anna, and Jean; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: Amen

The Anointing of Oil

P: Morgan, Anna and Jean, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

R: *(by each candidate after the anointing) Amen*

Welcome by the Congregation *(please stand as you are able)*

P: Through Baptism God has made these sisters members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you.

C: Peace be with you.

*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.

O God our Holy one, you guide all of us always, today we ask your blessing on Morgan, Anna and Jean, we welcome them into the family of God and partners in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty (*especially Marshall Fuhrman, Lori Jenson, Sandy Kenefick, Ron Rose and Barb Barum*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died (*especially Duane Clemmens and John Ausman*). As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. 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 mission and ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

*OFFERING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

LBW page 96

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

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THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	4/14	8:45 am 10 am 11 am	- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - Third Sunday of Easter Worship - Fellowship - Transition Team Meets
MONDAY	4/15	10-Noon 7 pm	- Secretary in Office - AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4/16	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	4/17	3:20 pm 5 pm 5:30 pm	- Confirmation - Worship committee Meets - Finance Meets
FRIDAY	4/19	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SATURDAY	4/20	8-4:30	- Luther Park Work Day
SUNDAY	4/21	8:45 am 10 am	- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship, communion - Sunday School Sings - HS Seniors received quilts & reception

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hollysweeney65@gmail.com Giving questions contact: Barb Vadnais barbvadnais1@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sunday school will be signing in church on Sunday, April 21st!



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.



Schedule:

8:00 AM — Breakfast & Coffee for the overnights

8:30-9:00 AM — Arrival: Gather in the dining hall to find out your assigned project (or get assigned)

12:00 PM — Lunch!

4:30 PM — Departure

List of projects:

Complete Pool Deck

Scrape and paint trim on Old Chapel

Trim and cut shoreline

Farm clean-up

Clean up brush around shoreline

Build archery target stands

Stain swings at farm

Stain playground

Raking, Leaf blowing, stick pick-up, clean out gutters

Haul canoes and kayaks to beach

Wood splitting

Power washing

Support deep cleaning needs

Call or email our office if you plan to attend, and let us know if you need to stay overnight!

715-859-2215

info@lutherpark.org

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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