

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**10 am**



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church; we give thanks for your presence with us this day.

Children are always welcome for the duration of our worship services. Their voices remind us of the joy (and sometimes lament) of being the people of God. There are activity bags hanging on the rack outside the sanctuary if your little one would like something to keep their hands busy.

As we worship during this uncertain time, we gather under the cross of Christ, knowing that we are loved by God, redeemed by our Savior and called into lives of active discipleship by the Holy Spirit.

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want* Emma Lou Diemer

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water  
and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

(ELW 531)

1. The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing. The feast is  
2. Ta - bles are la - den with good things. O taste the  
3. The hun - gry heart He sat - is - fies. Of - fers the

rea - dy to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide  
peace and joy He brings. He'll fill you up with love - di - vine.  
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud,

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side. Sing with thank - ful - ness  
He'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.  
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

songs of pure - de - light. Come and re - vel in Hea - ven's love and light.

Take your place at the ta - ble of the King. The feast is

rea - dy to be - gin. The feast is rea - dy to be - gin.

## 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**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



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



peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. 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, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **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.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

|             |
|-------------|
| <b>WORD</b> |
|-------------|

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12**

A reading from Acts.

The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

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.

**Though 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 follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24**

A reading from 1st John.

We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And 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. All 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 (ELW p. 188)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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 the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* (ACS 954)



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave,  
stripped of might up - on the cross,  
sit in pow - er at God's side,  
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.  
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
have a love that reach - es wide.  
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
you, who are both gift and cost.  
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.  
you, who are our death and life.



## **NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our common Christian faith, using the words of the 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**

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.

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. 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, especially..... 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.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Hear now the deepest desires of our hearts..... 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 Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

|             |
|-------------|
| <b>MEAL</b> |
|-------------|

**OFFERING ANTHEM** The Lord is My Shepherd

Thomas Matthews

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

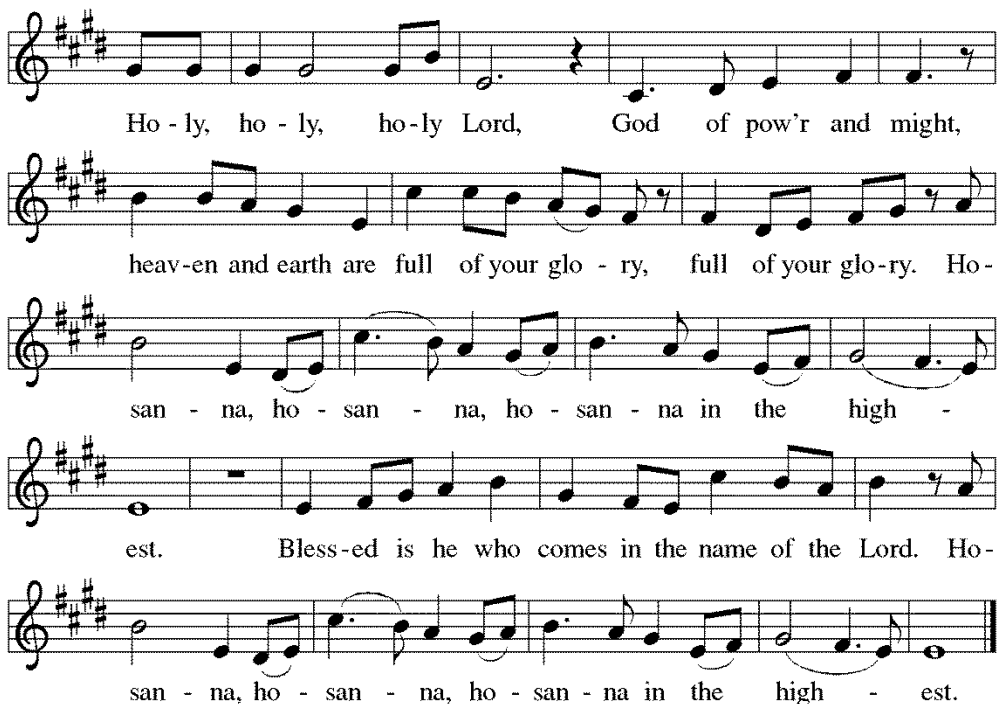
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)



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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

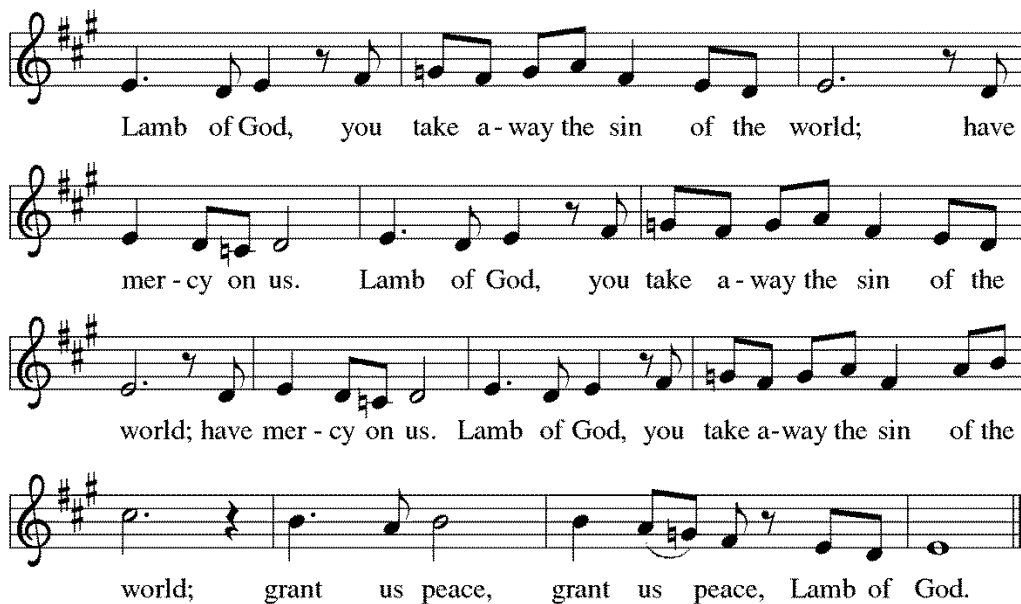
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)



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, Lamb of God.

## HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

### *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat (ELW 484)*

*Refrain*




You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



*Refrain*

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joi - ce.  
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION Psalm 23

Michael Burkhardt

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

|         |
|---------|
| 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 SONG *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

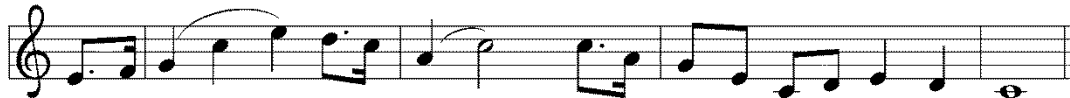


with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un-fail - ing arms a - round you;

### *Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

## DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Voluntary No. 2 in C Major

John Stanley

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Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Called into community, gifted to serve;  
Glorifying God through love in action.

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**MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Lectionary readings week of April 21

|            |   |           |   |
|------------|---|-----------|---|
| Monday:    | Psalm 95<br>1 Samuel 16:1-13<br>1 Peter 5:1-5         | Thursday: | Psalm 22:25-31<br>Amos 8:1-7<br>Acts 8:1b-8   |
| Tuesday:   | Psalm 95<br>1 Chronicles 11:1-9<br>Revelation 7:13-17 | Friday:   | Psalm 22:25-31<br>Amos 8:11-13<br>Acts 8:9-25 |
| Wednesday: | Psalm 95<br>Micah 7:8-20<br>Mark 14:26-31             | Saturday: | Psalm 22:25-31<br>Amos 9:7-15<br>Mark 4:30-32 |