



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 21 April 2024

## Worship at 9:30 a.m.

### Gathering

*Easter's celebration continues with meeting the risen Christ as our Good Shepherd.*

*Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book, and are numbered at the top of each hymn. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!*

*A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.*

*Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email ([christpipersville@gmail.com](mailto:christpipersville@gmail.com)) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.*

#### WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia**

We are gathered in the name of the Father, + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In baptism, by water and the Word, God liberates us from sin and death,  
joining us to the resurrection life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God's Easter promise be renewed in us  
as we proclaim our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

*-Silence -*

Do you reject the devil and all his empty promises,  
renouncing the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I do, by the grace of God, and the power of the resurrection.**

Walking with God's people, will you seek His ways,  
showing His saving grace by faith-filled word and action?

**We will, by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear the good news: God raised Jesus from the dead so that we might have forgiveness of our sins, and live in faith and hope. By the precious blood of Christ, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven! Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and praise our Father in heaven.

**Blessed be God, forever! Alleluia! Amen!**

WE SING THE GATHERING HYMN: ELW #502, THE KING OF LOVE



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;      6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;            thy goodness faileth never.  
 and, oh, what transport of delight      Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!            within thy house forever.

**GREETING**

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

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST**



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



Ⓑ 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.

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

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

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

#### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray *Silence- The Prayer of the Day is offered. We join our hearts in silent prayer. It concludes: ... one God, now and forever. Amen*

### Word

*Please be seated.*

THE FIRST LESSON is from the Acts of the Apostles, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter (Acts 4:5-12)

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>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.**

*Silence for Reflection*

PSALM IS READ RESPONSIBLY BY VERSE.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup> for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>1</sup> comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.  
**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever. Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection*

**THE SECOND LESSON** is from 1 John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. (1 JOHN 3:16-24)

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.**

*Please stand.*

SERMON SONG: #364, VS 1 *before the Gospel*

**Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

*Refrain:  
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!*

The Holy Gospel according to chapter **Glory to you, O Lord!** (John 10:11-18)

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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 our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ!**

RESPONSE:

**"Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won."**

*Refrain:  
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!*

*Please be seated.*

TEACHING THE WORD / SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: #764, HAVE NO FEAR

- 1 Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,  
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,  
for the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!

- 3 Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,  
for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,  
for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;  
thankful hearts raise to God!

*Please stand at pastor's invitation*

We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
And 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
And 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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all longing for wholeness and peace.

*We join our hearts in prayer for one another, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each petition concludes:  
...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** We offer our own prayers aloud or in silence following, people of God, for  
what else shall we pray?*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower us and all your churches to be places of service and outreach, invitation and welcome with our neighbors and among the nations. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations to learn and teach, and all people with the task of carrying out care for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. In your mercy, **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. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without adequate housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Hear our prayers for all the people and needs upon our hearts. People of God, for what else shall we pray? *Silence* Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. In your mercy, **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. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 with the example of those who've gone before that in time generations may give thanks for us. In your mercy, **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.

## Meal

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words with a wave, placing a hand over our hearts, even a little bow in whatever touchless way you choose. Following the peace, please be seated.*

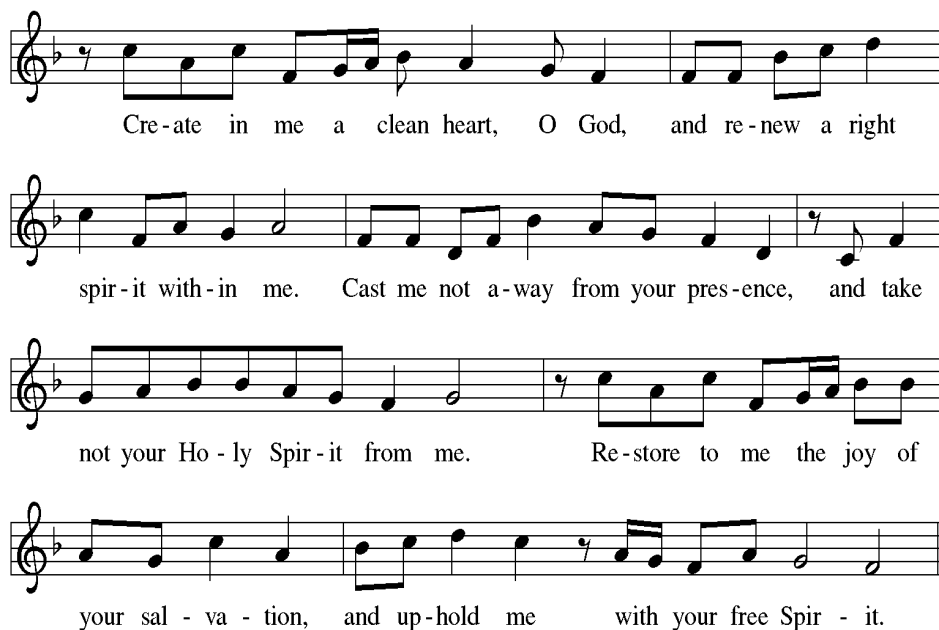
### COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to mercies. In-House the offering plate is set by the baptismal font. In house or tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at [christpipersville.org](http://christpipersville.org) or using the QR code.*



*God's gifts and joining us online*

### THE OFFERTORY: HYMN #186, "Create in Me"



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray *silence* Risen and living Lord,  
**you call us to believe and bear fruit.**  
**May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.**  
**Nourish us at this your Table of grace**  
**that we become be your witnesses to the world**  
**working for peace and justice so all may know Jesus Christ,**  
**as Savior and risen Lord. Amen.**

*We join our hearts in silent prayer as the Table is prepared*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

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 our right, our duty, and our great joy to thank and praise You, O God  
for the glorious resurrection of our Lord.

By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising has brought us to new and eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter,  
with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending praise:

**Holy are you, Lord! Holy are you, God of power and might!  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of our God! **Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, the wellspring of all holiness.  
We praise you for the gift of creation, the work of your hands,  
so wondrously formed in holiness and beauty.

When humanity turned away in sin you restored us  
by cross and resurrection of Jesus.

That in forgiveness and joy we might thrive, giving thanks and remembering:

That on the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup and gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In obedience and thanksgiving, we remember the great and mighty acts of God, and proclaim the mystery and  
promise of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Proclaiming all glory and honor is yours through the Holy Spirit, O God, we offer our prayer in the name of  
Christ, who taught us to pray:

THE 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**

THE AGNUS DEI: JUST AS I AM, #592

**Just as I am, without one plea / but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee / O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown / hath broken every barrier down;  
now, to be thine, yea thine alone / O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*We share in the Lord's Body and Blood. Pastor will ask us to take up our communion cup and invite us to commune using these or similar words:*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

This is the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you!  
Take and eat, take and drink!  
*Please be seated.*

THE COMMUNION

*All who believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine are invited to commune. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation that you wish.*

*The musicians will be communed first. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.*

*As the altar is cleared and the chalice vested, there is silence for prayer and reflection. Following communion and the hymn, please stand at Pastor's invitation.*

*The hymn during communion is #481, Come to the Table*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*Please stand at Pastor's invitation*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you



and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Eternal God, living Savior,

**All of creation sings for joy at the risen life of Jesus.**

**Fill our hearts with your power and peace,**

**and send us forth renewed and rejoicing,**

**living in new life to be a blessing to the world.**

**through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen!**

## Sending

### THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. **Amen**

### THE SENDING HYMN #778, 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.

### THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace, and tell the news that Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### THE POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion.

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