

resurrection **REALity**

The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding

Peace Lutheran Church
Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, April 21, 2024

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran Worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Current Worship Series: Easter Reality

Easter Sunday: *Easter is of First Importance*

April 7: *The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace*

April 14: *We Have a Meaningful Message to Share*

April 21: *The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding*

April 28: *The Living Lord Produces Active Faith*

May 5: *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours*

May 12: *Christ's Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*

May 19: *We Will Overcome This Broken World*

Today's Focus: *The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding*

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals—an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food, but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep.

The word “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Today, there are plenty of people—pastors, religious leaders, etc.—who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that “many” of these are “false prophets” (1 John 4:1) who “distort the truth” (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

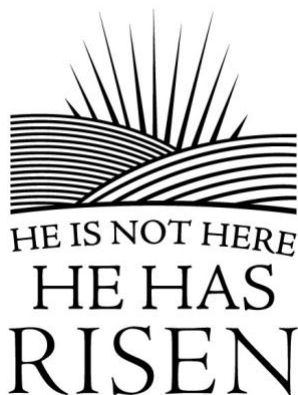
God wants his people to prepare the sacrament of Holy Communion because it's a powerful meal. See page 156 in the red hymnal for a personal examination guide.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Vocalists during the Easter season: Judy Limpert and Benji Doerr

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch





THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

The Fourth Sunday After Easter

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-4



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our
2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -
3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him
4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry
ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their
and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who
truth and pow'r of grace and pour - ing out their



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 2
friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!
have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 4
lives they gained life, life ev - er - last ing.



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -



lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed."

v. 3/v. 5

Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus!
For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for,
and certain of what we do not see.

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Confession and Absolution

As we come into the presence of God, we confess all our sins, including the many times we have often been unsure about God's promises.
Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Silence for meditation and reflection

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Galatians 3:27

Hebrews 11:1

Psalms 118:24

The use of the keys of absolution is that special right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. See John 20:21-23.

Romans 10:10

It is with your heart that you believe and are justified;
And it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1 Peter 1:18-21

You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Acts 10:43

Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Therefore, it is by Christ's command and with his authority that I say to you what God says to you: In the name of Jesus T your sins are forgiven.

John 20:29

Your Savior also says, "Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed."

John 20:31

"I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; by believing I have life in his name."

Hymn

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed sts. 5, Ref

5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave now works in
us to pow'r - f'ly save. He frees our hearts to
live his grace; go, tell of his good - ness.

Refrain

Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -
 lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:
 "Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." *(Fine)*
 v. 3/v. 5

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Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated





The Word

First Reading

Acts 20:28–32

²⁸Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³²“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 4:1-6

¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not

The good shepherd asks his sub-shepherds to keep watch over the flock.

St. John encourages us to test all those who claim to have a spiritual message. Not all such individuals have been sent by God.

listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

After a brief introduction, the congregation joins in singing the refrains.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

John 10:14

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

For centuries in preparation for hearing the Gospel, Christians have sung or spoken "Alleluia!" and a Scripture verse reinforcing the theme of the day.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

Jesus explains why he is the good shepherd.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

Psalm 23

After the vocalist introduces the refrain the first time, the congregation joins to sing it again. Then, the vocalist sings all the verses, and the congregation sings all the refrains.

Refrain



Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **Refrain**
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. **Refrain**
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **Refrain**
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. **Refrain**
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **Refrain**

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Sermon

1 John 4:1-6

Please stand

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven

Public
confession
is faith's
response
to God's
saving
Word.
Christians
composed
the
Apostle's
Creed in
the fourth
century to
defend the
Bible's
teachings
that both
Jesus
Christ and
the Holy
Spirit are
true God,
equal to
the Father
in one
eternal,
undivided
Trinity.

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

Offering

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!

Members and visitors, kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The Pastor will speak the prayer of the church and the congregation will join in the Lord's prayer.

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 Sacrament

We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26,28; Mk. 14:22,24; Lk. 22:19-22). God's Word also tells us that those who take Communion together are to:

- 1. Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are miraculously present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29),*
- 2. Examine their hearts (1 Cor. 11:28), and*
- 3. Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17).*

Therefore we ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms as the pastor approaches. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.



These opening words mark the beginning of the Sacrament and are among the oldest words in the liturgy. Christians have been speaking these words to each other for thousands of years.

Words of Institution

The pastor speaks the words of institution according to 1 Corinthians 11. Afterward, the congregation will sing the song below.

Lamb of God

John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

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.

Distribution

After the song, please be seated. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction.

During the distribution, the vocalist will sing the verses, and the congregation can join in to sing the refrain as they feel comfortable.

Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; he makes me
2 He guides my ways in right - eous - ness, and he a -
3 And though I walk the dark - est path, I will not



lie in pas - tures green. He leads me by the still, still
noints my head with oil, and my cup, it o - ver -
fear the e - vil one, for you are with me, and your

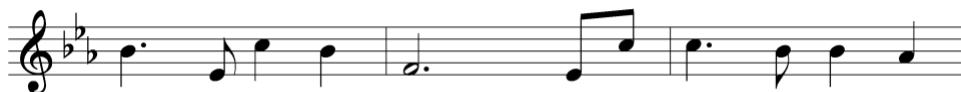


wa - ters, his good - ness re - stores my soul.
flows with joy, I feast on his pure de - lights.
rod and staff are the com - fort I need to know.

Refrain



And I will trust in you a - lone, and I will



trust in you a - lone, for your end - less mer - cy



fol - lows me, your good - ness will lead me home.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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Please stand

Thanksgiving

Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

1 Cor. 11:26

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Hymn

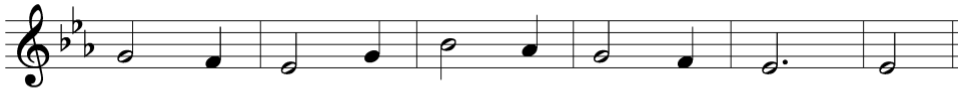
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



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



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant
yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der
you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my



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

- 5 You spread a table in my sight,
a banquet here bestowing;
your oil of welcome, my delight;
my cup is overflowing!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
Tune: Irish, 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

God's blessings to the students as they travel home for the summer!

Peace would not exist if it were not for the many students we serve here throughout the year. We will miss you! Have a restful and safe summer.



Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.

Upcoming Events

- Men's Morning Bible Study – every Tuesday morning at 6:30
- Spring Cleaning + Cookout – Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am

Acknowledgments

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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Peacehoughton.org

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.

resurrection
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