Incarnation Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

During this time of quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus, this bulletin is designed for your participation in the worship service from your individual homes. We hope you will join with your church family at 10am each Sunday as we worship separately together as the people of God. It’s exciting to see people sign in, greet one another, send little messages, etc. The service is also posted on Facebook should the 10am time not work for you on any particular Sunday. Thank you for being here. Thank you for worshipping together separately this day!

**GATHERING**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image

and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,

and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,

and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,

for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**A Reading from Acts**

42[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
  43Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23 The Psalm will be read responsively.**

1The Lord| is my shepherd;  
  I shall not | be in want.  
 2**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures**  
  **and leads me be- | side still waters.**  
 3You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
  and guide me along right pathways | for your name’s sake.  
 4**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.**  
 5You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
  you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.  
 6**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**

**A Reading from First Peter**

19It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 20If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. 21For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.  
 22“He committed no sin,  
  and no deceit was found in his mouth.”  
23When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING**

**The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 1“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.  
  7So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Jane**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**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,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites especially, The University of South Carolina, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Clemson University, and Newberry College. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers’ markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering especially, Betty Richardson, Sivi Middelstaedt and Family, Jenny Gantt, Emily Prince, and all those that are home bound. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Inspire, Renew, and Empower those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries this week especially, Amy Ely, George Marion Rushe II, Ryan Black, Rose Duncan, and Kit Black. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give joy to those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially, Aidan DeJames, Mark Hall, Sarah Harris, Luke Johnson, Carolyn Rast, and John Spratlin. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially, Jason Harris, Dr. Jordan Shealy, Katelyn Shealy, Melissa Corbett, Maureen Kelly, Sue Hoffmann, Ashley English, Dr. Duncan Norton, Ashton Rabern, Kathy Kehl, and all those who find themselves in harm’s way*.* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**OFFERING**

*So that the various ministries of the congregation may continue, please take a moment to place your weekly offering in a basket and then mail to the church or give your weekly offering online at this time.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Announcements!**

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated**Weekly Worship Schedule!**  
**Morning Watch** Weekday Mornings at 9:30 am via Facebook Live!  
  
**Wednesday Evenings**at 6:00 pm via Facebook Live! All are encouraged to grab a meal or a snack and dive into Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Jane.  
  
**Sunday Morning Worship** at 10:00 am via Facebook Live!  
Materials for Worship are emailed out each Friday  
and posted to Facebook each Saturday!

**Online Giving!**

We look forward to the day when we

can worship together as a family again,

but until then, please continue to

support the mission of the church.

You can use this image by scanning

the QR Code with your smart phone’s

camera which will lead you

to our Website for Online Giving!

**Prayer List**

**Current:** Betty Richardson, Sivi Middelstaedt and Family, Jenny Gantt, Emily Prince, and all those that are home bound.

**Birthdays:** Aidan Dejames 05/05, Mark Hall 05/03, Sarah Harris 05/03, Luke Johnson 05/06, Carolyn Rast 05/07, John Spratlin 05/04

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Amy Ely 05/04, George Marion Rushe II 05/08, Ryan Black 05/08, Rose Duncan 05/08, Kit Black 05/06