

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

## April 14, 2024

# Third Sunday of Easter

## Rev. Matt Holmes

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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### All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.

If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus.

His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer.

We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us.

It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ.

All are welcome here.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## **INVOCATION**

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

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*– Silence for reflection –*

*Most merciful God,*

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may  
delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

## **SONG: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!, ELW #377**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)*

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

Walking the way, Christ in the center, telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

**Jesus is risen...**

Jesus the vine, we are the branches; Life in the Spirit, the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.

**Jesus is risen...**

City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb;  
River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the *I AM!*

**Jesus is risen...**

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## READING – Acts 3:12-19

*(Peter and John heal a beggar who was lame since birth, which causes an astonished uproar.)* When Peter saw *(the uproar)*, he addressed the people, “Fellow Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the holy and righteous one and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

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

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

**You gave me room when I was in distress.**

**Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.**

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

**How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;

**the Lord hears when I call to him.**

When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

**Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.**

There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!

**Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”**

You have put gladness in my heart

**more than when their grain and wine abound.**

I will both lie down and sleep in peace,

**for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

## **READING – 1 John 3:1-7**

See what love the Father has given 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. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

*– Please stand as you are able –*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

## **THE GOSPEL – Luke 24:36b-48**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

## SERMON – Rev. Matt Holmes

### SONG: We Walk by Faith, ELW #635

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

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:

For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:  
Beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.

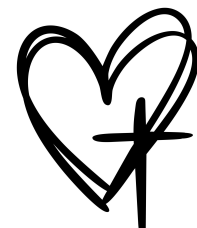
And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light,  
may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

### 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 *(on separate sheet)*

*Hear us, O God... Your mercy is great.*



### PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks & praise.**



## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

### **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.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT**

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **All are welcome.**

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

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

## **SONG: Sent Forth by God's Blessing, ELW #547**

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us,  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PreSchool Birthday Bash & Bazaar – Saturday, April 27 from 10 to 2.** Please come and shop! Invite your friends!
- **Mother's Day Bags April 28** – Sue's Pantry asked if we could create a treat for the many women she serves. Holly is gathering items for us to pack gift bags. Assembly date tentatively planned for April 28 after church. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the items, please reach out to Holly ([HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)). Thank you.
- **Caring Hands** – April TBD, May 18, June 15 from 9 to noon.
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Padraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, gloves, feminine products, and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. New wishlist diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, cough drops, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, coats, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa ([tcalabrese98@gmail.com](mailto:tcalabrese98@gmail.com)).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you.