

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
APRIL 7, 2024

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the mountain.

We come to meet Jesus.

Jesus sends us out to serve.

We will be his witnesses to all the world.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

Risen God, we confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done. Take away our sins that we might fully embody your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In grace and mercy, God forgives all our sins, and with joy and expectation calls us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you call us together in your presence and charge us with the task of bearing your love into a suffering world. Strengthen us for this work, that all might share equally in your reign of justice and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARK 6: 7-13

⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: ACTS 1: 1-14

Lector: In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Pastor Janet: So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Lector: When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Pastor Janet: Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | RISEN <https://youtu.be/2V2bAPVzCUs?si=8ZWMMU9PQJNO4S6E>

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: To celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all
in need. (*A brief silence*).

O God, you send us out into the world to bear witness to your transformative love and
justice. Give us the words to say and the opportunities to say them, that all might
experience the fullness of your presence. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Creation witnesses to your power and glory, O God. Make us partners with the natural
world, ever aware of our interdependence and committed to our mutual flourishing.
Give strength to those who struggle to recover from the earthquake in Taiwan.
God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Soften the hearts and minds of those who govern through fear and oppression and
open them to partnerships with other nations for the benefit of all. God of new life,
hear our prayer.

Be with those in our families, our lives, and our community who suffer illness, trauma,
grief, and all forms of pain and loss, especially Dorothy, Lori, Terry, Dave, and all
those we lift through our Prayer Chain Help us to bear your healing love to them.
God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire, strengthen, and support missionaries in their work to build communities
and contribute to the health and well being of all they serve throughout the world.
God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our
community. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread,
give hunger for justice. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down,
abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided, especially those seeking help through the
Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, Rise Against Suicide, and the
Boulder Shelter for the Homeless God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower the staff and parents of children living on the Autism Spectrum. Nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and adults, that they might reach their highest quality of life. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage and empower those impacted by war, tyranny, and gun violence. Still the sounds of weapons. Teach us to seek security that comes from respect rather than violence. Strengthen and comfort the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Sudan, Haiti, and all those throughout the world whose lives are impacted by violence. Remind us of what You require of us: That we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, our help in every trouble, we pray for peace in the Holy Land. Protect those traumatized by ongoing violence, especially those with no access to safe spaces. Release people held hostage; provide food, water, fuel, and supplies for all in need; sustain medical personnel as they work in horrendous conditions; tend to those who are wounded; comfort all who grieve. Direct your people and its leaders into the way of peace. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with gratitude the saints who carried your word into the world from the beginning of the church through to the present day. May we follow in their example to be open about our own faith, that others might follow after us. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)

OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER

God the source of every good thing, **we offer now our gifts and our tithes for the sake of bearing witness to your transformative work in the world. Accept these gifts as a sign of our commitment to the work you have entrusted us with. Amen.**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 GOD thanks and praise.**

It is right and good to give you thanks and praise, O God, because from the beginning, you invited us on a journey with you, a journey of wonders and miracles, a journey of healing and joy, a journey of mystery, a journey full of life and love.

Blessed is your son, O God, our Savior Jesus the Christ, who joined us on our journey, who was so full of grace and truth that we cannot help but follow him. When his path went back to you, you sent us your Spirit to continue alongside us, to empower and inspire us to continue to be your people. Now we pray that that same Spirit will be among us, and among these elements of bread and cup, that our ordinary meal will become our sacred feast, to nourish us for the next part of the journey.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We come to this table, remembering that on the night in which he gave himself up for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, 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 in remembrance of me.

As we break bread together, as we drink from the same cup, unite us as people who are grateful for the journey, for each other's company, and for your guiding presence. Hear us as we are bold to say together the prayer that Jesus taught....

**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 one who was taken up in the cloud is here at this holy table and invites you now to share with him the bread and wine of the new covenant. Come, for all is prepared.

SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

COMMUNION HYMN | I RECEIVED THE LIVING GOD

https://youtu.be/CRGIRDH6IAA?si=A7F_DD5DYBKL7Q7I

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, fill you with new life, and send you out to share in God's amazing grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love. We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence. We accept you into our bodies and into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer and we give you thanks. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION & SENDING

You had not imagined that something so empty could fill you to overflowing.
You have seen and so you are already blessed.
You have been seen and so you are the blessing.
There is no other word you need. Simply go and tell.
Go with confidence, trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.
You are the work of God's own creation and his love endures forever.
Go in joy to love and serve the Lord! **Amen!**

SENDING HYMN | AS YOU GO

https://youtu.be/NWiv_GrVCG8?si=9HTC2HIX4ER739



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—
questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

WORSHIP RESOURCES:

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PRAYER OF THE DAY — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2024 CLERGY STUFF

SCRIPTURE READINGS — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD — ERIC MILNER WHITE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — RE-WORSHIP, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

GREAT THANKSGIVING — BETH MERRILL NEEL, 'HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD'. USED WITH PERMISSION, *AS ADAPTED*

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EASTER BENEDICTION — JAN L. RICHARDSON, *AS ADAPTED*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERP

ASSISTING MINISTER: DICK WERP

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: CAROLINE AND EVERETT MICHALAK

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

LECTOR: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ZOOM TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS: APRIL 7 – APRIL 14, 2024

Sunday, April 7th – You Shall Be My Witnesses

9:30 a.m. - Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

Wednesday, April 10th

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study

Friday, April 12th

7:00 a.m. - Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

5:00 p.m. - Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

Sunday, April 14th – Peter Heals in Jerusalem

9:30 a.m. - Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

SHERILYN S. 4/6

KAY W. 4/9

DOROTHY F. 4/13

CINDIE S. 4/27

DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 7, 2024

Monday, April 8, 2024 – Acts 1:15-26 Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-115-26-matthias-chosen-to-replace-judas2024>

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – Acts 2:1-13 The Coming of the Holy Spirit
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-21-13-the-coming-of-the-holy-spirit2024>

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – Acts 2:14-36 Peter Addresses the Crowd
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-214-36-peter-addresses-the-crowd2024>

Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Acts 2:37-42 The First Converts
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-237-42-the-first-converts2024>

Friday, April 12, 2024 – Acts 2:43-47 Life Among the Believers
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-243-47-life-among-the-believers2024>

Saturday, April 13, 2024 – Acts 3:11-26 Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-311-26-peter-speaks-in-solomons-portico2024>

Sunday, April 14, 2024 – Acts 3:1-10 Peter Heals in Jerusalem
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-31-10-peter-heals-in-jerusalem2024>