

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION ON APRIL 21, 2024

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls you to this place.

We are inspired to hear and know God's word.

The Holy Spirit calls you to this place.

We are inspired to sing God's praises!



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

Holy God, it is not always easy to live out the gospel in our daily lives. We are sometimes met with opposition or rejection when we stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized. Strengthen us by the example of the early Christians that we might persist in our call to bear witness to you. In and through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARK 13: 9-11

⁹“As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

¹¹When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 17: 1-9

Lector: After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.”

Pastor Janet: Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting,

Lector: "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus."

Pastor Janet: The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

1 THESSALONIANS 1: 1-10

Lector: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Janet: For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

Lector: And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

Pastor Janet: For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | LESS LIKE ME

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/MIUHOYK_8RE?SI=77GjDOTC6M4KIUTC](https://youtu.be/MIUHOYK_8RE?si=77GjDOTC6M4KIUTC)

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 sustained Paul and the early Christians through harsh opposition and persecution. Give us the persistence to do your work of justice even when we face strong pushback or personal risk. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We human beings are the most adaptable creatures on earth, inhabiting even the most hostile of climates. Wherever we live, fill us with mutual love for the natural world around us, that we would sustain the environments that sustain us. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Open the minds of all who lead to new ideas and learnings from younger generations and other nations, that together we might solve the issues that negatively affect the whole world. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and wholeness to those recovering from injury or surgery, and to all whose health is challenged in any way, especially Dorothy, Lori, Terry, Dave, and all those we lift up through our Prayer Chain. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort the victims of violence, especially gun violence, and bring healing to families and communities torn apart by it. Commit us to doing whatever is needed to end violence in our nation and our 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. Fill the hearts of those providing help and transport for these children with compassion and stir their hearts to protect and keep them safe. 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.

So many saints from Paul to the present have risked their safety, their reputations, and their lives for the sake of the gospel. Inspire us by their example to be willing to do whatever is needed to make sure your message of love and justice is carried forward. 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

Holy Spirit, who guided Paul to carry to the good news of Christ to all the world, and who inspires us in our giving to support the life and ministries of this congregation, accept these, our gifts, for your good purposes. 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 now as we boldly pray together the prayer that Jesus gave us....

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.

Jesus, who meets us wherever we are, and strengthens us in our call to work for his justice, now invites us to the feast of his body and blood. Come and experience the presence of Jesus in this holy meal.

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 | BEHOLD THE LAMB

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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 live and share God's amazing love and 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=X77ZFzC5QjMHDRv0](https://youtu.be/NWIV_GrVCG8?si=x77ZFzC5QjMHDRv0)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

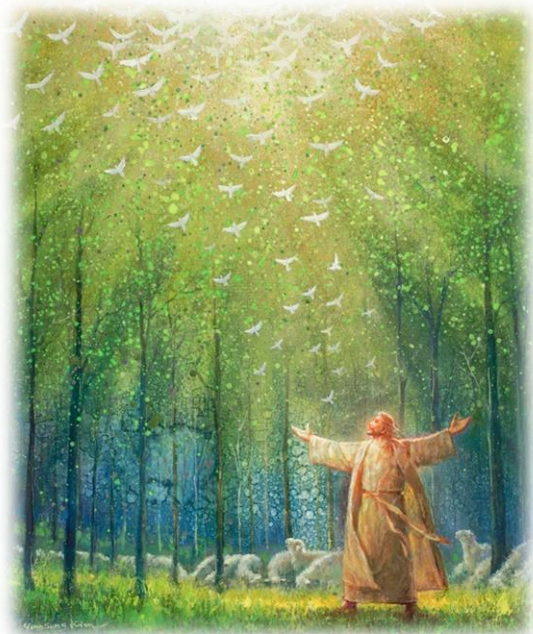
We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

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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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: WAYNE OTTO
PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING
LECTOR: CAROLINE MICHALAK
ZOOM TECHNICIAN: MICHELLE KIRCHOFF

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS: APRIL 21 – APRIL 28, 2024

Sunday, April 21st – Church at Thessalonica

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

Wednesday, April 24th

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

Friday, April 26th

7:00 a.m. - Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m. - Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

Sunday, April 28th – Church at Corinth

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 21, 2024

Monday, April 22, 2024 – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Thanks to Thessalonica
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-thessalonians-11-10-thanks-to-thessalonica2024>

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 – Acts 6:1-7 Seven Chosen to Serve
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-61-7-seven-chosen-to-serve2024>

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – Acts 6:8-15 The Arrest of Stephen
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-68-15-the-arrest-of-stephen2024>

Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Acts 7:1-53 Stephen's Speech to the Council
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-71-53-stephens-speech-to-the-council2024>

Friday, April 26, 2024 – Acts 7:54-81a The Stoning of Stephen
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-754-81a-the-stoning-of-stephen2024>

Saturday, April 27, 2024 – Acts 8:1b-3 Saul Persecutes the Church
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-81b-3-saul-persecutes-the-church2024>

Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Factions in the Corinthians Church
<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-corinthians-110-18-factions-in-the-corinthian-church2024>