

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP
APRIL 14, 2024**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, In and through Jesus you reached out in healing love to all who came to you for help. Empower us now to extend that same healing love to one another, our community, and the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARK 6: 53-56

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.
⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.
⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: ACTS 3: 1-10

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴ Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER TIM KIRCHOFF

My initial reaction reading Acts 3 reminded me about the difference between wants and needs. However, I think there is something even deeper here when you consider what happens to the lame man after encountering Peter and John. This story highlights our lack of vision to recognize our true needs from what we think we need.

Because of his condition, presumably this man could not work for a living in a meaningful way. Sadly, this reduced the man to being a local beggar, asking for alms to support his life (and perhaps family?). Imagine the torture on this man's mental health, struggling with no sense of worth or value. The potential for any long-term solution becomes pointless and out of reach when the day-to-day needs must be met. Thus, this man can only fulfill his immediate needs with a temporary solution of alms, repeating this cycle on a daily basis.

That cycle broke when Peter offered a different solution. Peter recognizes the temporary nature alms are supporting this man. Instead of alms, he uses his faith in Christ to heal him physically and mentally, creating a more permanent solution to his life problems. We aren't told, but it is reasonable to believe this man found employment after praising God for this act of healing. He was given a second chance at life, and I'd like to believe he wasted no time in changing his life for the better.

I think we can all relate to this man's story at varying levels. Have you ever thought you needed something only to recognize later you had more important needs? Thinking about the future is certainly harder to do than considering our more immediate needs. We see others in great need pass in and out of our lives on a continual basis. Does this story suggest our charitable giving to satisfy temporary needs is pointless and not meaningful? No, I don't think so. There are different levels of need, and on varying time frames. Our church ministries likely help a lot of people in temporary situations while working to make ends meet. Giving aid following a natural disaster is another fine example.

Our story concludes with one final piece, that is the power of Christ walking with us. We may not always know what is best for us, but God does. When we ask God for our daily bread, there is likely more forthcoming than just food for our daily needs. Praise be to God, Jesus is walking with us on our path to His kingdom, Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY | HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

ELW # 612

<https://youtu.be/CBFk467zNSk?feature=shared>

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*).

Healing God, by your power, Peter was able to liberate a man from the need to beg for his survival. Give us the power to transform lives and systems so that all your children can have what they need to flourish. God of new life, **hear our prayer**.

Within the complexity and beauty of the world you created can be found sources of life and healing we have yet to encounter, but which could be transformative to humanity. Help us to preserve and protect the gifts you have given us in nature. God of new life, **hear our prayer**.

Move the leaders of wealthy nations to provide health and humanitarian aid wherever it is needed and commit them to addressing the international inequities that cause these health crises in the first place. God of new life, **hear our prayer**.

Strengthen all who are experiencing challenges to their health and wellbeing and all who provide care to them, especially Dorothy, Terry, Dave, and all those we lift through our Prayer Chain. God of new life, **hear our prayer**.

We uplift all who do not have access to healthcare, both in our own country and throughout the world. Make us advocates for this most essential human right so that every one of your beloved children might be cared for as you would care for them. 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.

We thank you for all the departed saints who have been healers in our lives. In their footsteps, may we engage in the healing practice of our faithful presence with those around 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.**

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!**



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.

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL 14 – APRIL 21, 2024

Sunday, April 14th – Peter Heals in Jerusalem

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Coffee and Conversation immediately following Worship

Wednesday, April 17th

11:00 a.m. – Amazing Grace Book Study by Zoom

Friday, April 19th

7:00 a.m. – Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

5:00 p.m. – Friday Perspectives

Sunday, April 21st – Church at Thessalonica

9:30 a.m. – Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion
Coffee and Conversation immediately following Worship

<p><u>APRIL</u> <u>BIRTHDAYS</u></p>
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SHERILYN S. 4/6

KAY W. 4/9

DOROTHY F.

4/13

CINDIE S. 4/27

DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2024

Monday, April 15, 2024 – Acts 4:1-22 Peter and John Before the Council

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-41-22-peter-and-john-before-the-council2024>

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 – Acts 4:23-31 The Believers Prayer for Boldness

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-423-31-the-believers-prayer-for-boldness2024>

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – Acts 4:32-37 The Believers Share Their Possessions

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-432-37-the-believers-share-their-possessions2024>

Thursday, April 18, 2024 – Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-51-11-ananias-and-sapphira2024>

Friday, April 19, 2024 – Acts 5:12-16 The Apostles Heal Many

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-512-16-the-apostles-heal-many2024>

Saturday, April 20, 2024 – Acts 5:17-42 The Apostles Are Persecuted

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-517-42-the-apostles-are-persecuted2024>

Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Thanks to Thessalonica

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-thessalonians-11-10-thanks-to-thessalonica2024>