

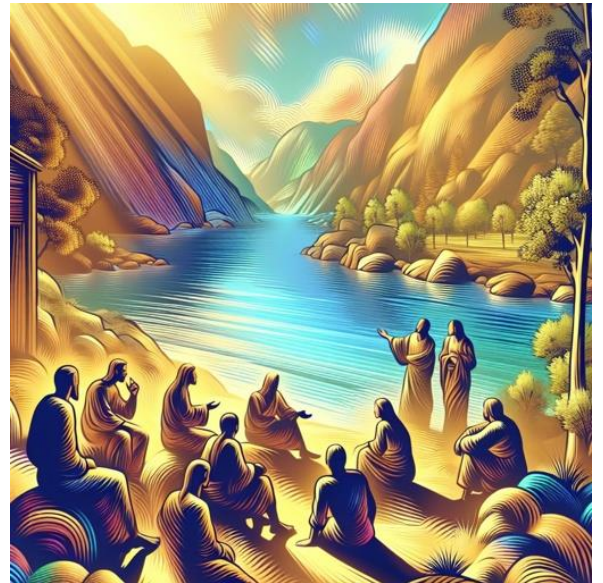
**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS AT HOME WORSHIP**  
**APRIL 28, 2024**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of community, **You call us into loving and supportive relationship with one another in our church family. Through the Holy Spirit, unify our hearts and minds, that together we might strive to bring your healing grace into the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARK 9: 34-35**

<sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."



**ACTS 18: 1-4**

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together – by trade they were tentmakers. <sup>4</sup> Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

**1 CORINTHIANS 1: 10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL BY ASSISTING MINISTER JOHN YARBERRY

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” This last verse from our gospel reading deserves scrutiny. How can the message about the cross be foolishness? There are many that believe Christ died so that those who believe in him will become more prosperous, have better bigger houses, the job of their dreams, and money overflowing. In other words, “blessed.” God will do these things for them if they follow the rules, and all that you must do is ask. This is commonly referred to as prosperity gospel.

The falsehood perpetrated here is antithetical to Christ’s teachings and the life he lived as an example for all humankind. The theology of the cross, a term coined by Martin Luther, in contrast is one of suffering and service. Jesus died so that we could live with the promise of forgiveness, and eternal life. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by his death on the cross, and glorious resurrection. A mean, cruel, and humiliating death. This theology is foolishness to those who are in fact living lives thinking Christ died for their material and ego driven needs. Those that they see suffering hardships are viewed as if they must have something in their life that God does not like or have made mistakes that God is punishing them for.

Martin Luther wrote the following about the theology of the cross: “One deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross.... A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls the thing what it actually is” (Heidelberg Disputation, theses 20 and 21).

Amen

**HYMN OF THE DAY** | ALTHOUGH I SPEAK WITH ANGEL’S TONGUE

ELW #644

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/XSZTDHWJEMI?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/XSZTDHWjEMI?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*).

Saving God, the message of the cross is utter foolishness to the powerful. Give us the strength and conviction to proclaim and to model your sacrificial love and leadership in all we say and do. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed creation is in need of our loving care and restoration. Unite us in our efforts to address pollution, climate change, and harmful practices throughout the world. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Keep our elected officials at all levels focused on the things that truly matter, that they might aggressively work toward your reign of justice and equity for all people. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Guide physical and behavioral health professionals who care for those in our families and communities whose lives are affected by illness, injury, or grief, especially Dorothy, Lori, Terry, Dave, and all those we lift up through our Prayer Chain. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to see past our disagreements with one another, large and small, that we might be united in whatever work it is that you have called us to in our world. 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.*

With gratitude we remember all peacemakers throughout history who have united and strengthened the body of Christ by their calm guidance. May we, in turn, bring peace and unity to our own faith community. 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 28 – MAY 5, 2024**

### **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Church at Corinth**

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

### **Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

### **Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

5:00 p.m. – Friday Perspectives

### **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>– Faith, Hope, and Love,**

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

### **APRIL & MAY BIRTHDAYS**

SHERILYN S. 4/6

KAY W. 4/9

DOROTHY F.

4/13

CINDIE S. 4/27

HELEN T. 5/13

SALLY E. 5/16

DONNA S. 5/26

TERRY S. 5/27

## **DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2024**

**Monday, April 29, 2024 – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18    Factions in the Corinthian Church**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-corinthians-110-18-factions-in-the-corinthian-church2024>

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024 – Acts 8:4-25    Philip Preaches in Samaria**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-84-25-philip-preaches-in-samaria2024>

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – Acts 8:26-40    Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-826-40-philip-and-the-ethiopian-eunuch2024>

**Thursday, May 2, 2024 – Acts 9:1-19a    The Conversion of Saul**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-91-19a-the-conversion-of-saul2024>

**Friday, May 3, 2024 – Acts 9:19b-22    Saul Preaches in Damascus**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-919b-22-saul-preaches-in-damascus2024>

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 – Acts 9:23-31    Saul in Jerusalem**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-923-31-saul-in-jerusalem2024>

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13    Faith, Hope and Love**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/1-corinthians-131-13-faith-hope-and-love2024>

