

Second Sunday of Easter – April 7th, 2024

Introduction to the Day

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Greeting – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.
Amen.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood
into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed
through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.**

Easter Proclamation

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Greeting – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

“Morning Has Broken”

#556

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading – 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Children's Message

Holy Gospel – John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

The sermon for these next two weeks is going to be a bit different than what folks are used to here at Good Shepherd, and I'd bet most churches aren't used to the approach we are going to take.

If you were in worship on Easter, you remember one of the children during the Children's Message started telling the rest of the story. They knew it. They started asking about the ones who were hiding in the upper room.

They started telling about Jesus appearing to them bringing peace.

I urged them to pump the brakes a little bit as they were getting into the Gospel text for these next two week.

Then, as they were walking back to their seat I joked, "do you want to preach next week?"

Well, here we are. They're going to. Kind of.

For the next two weeks are sermon time is going to be "Children say the Resurrectioniest Things." It is going to be dialogue between myself (Pastor Josh) and some of God's Children here at Good Shepherd.

I will simply be asking them some leading questions, and then, for the most part, I am going to get out of the way and let them tell the stories as they know them, and let them share how those stories make them feel and how they think they would have experienced it.

So, for the purposes of these Worship Packets I am simply going to give you the list of questions that I hope to have guide our conversation, and let you do your own reflecting on how these questions sit with you.

Question 1:

- We hear that the disciples who followed Jesus were locked in their homes because they were afraid that those who killed Jesus would be after them as well. What would you have been feeling?

Question 2:

- We then learn that Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." He shows them His wounds and they come to believe that it is truly Him. Now what are you feeling?

Question 3:

- We learn that Thomas, one of the original disciples, was not with the others. Where do you suppose he was?

Question 4:

- Later, Thomas is with them and they tell him everything that they have experienced. Thomas says that he wants to see what they have seen. Do you think it is fair that Thomas is often referred to as "Doubting Thomas?"

Question 5:

- As a person of faith, what do you think this Gospel story is saying to you?

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Hymn of the Day

"Baptized and Set Free"

#453

Baptism of Zella Madeline Larson, daughter of Justin and Kelsey Larson

Apostle's Creed

Prayers

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day.

Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain

(We pray especially for Matt, David, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Cherri, Peggy, John, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Dan and Sharon, Roger and MaryLee). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you *(especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel)*. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Peace

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

#471, #466

Lord's Prayer

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Post Communion Prayer

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Dismissal

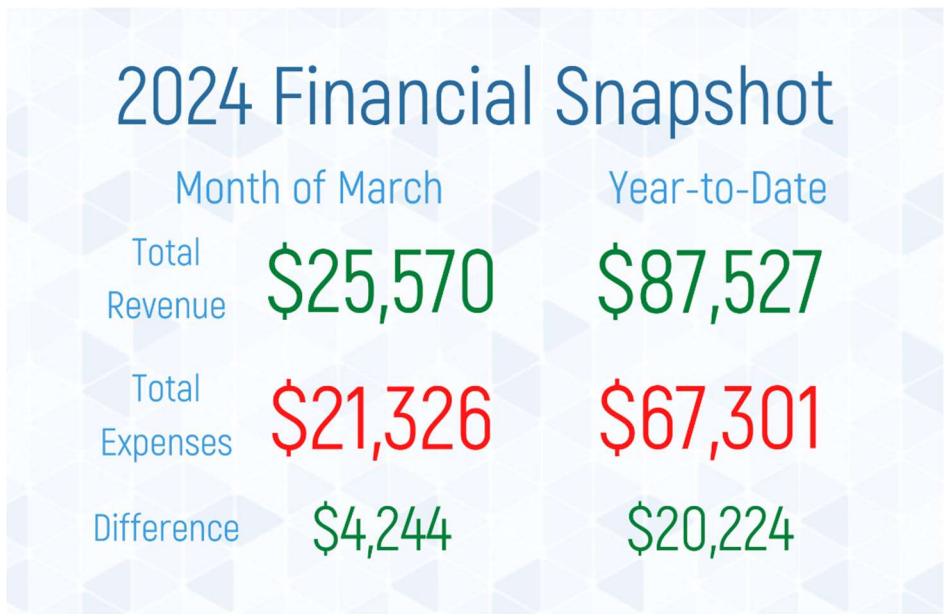
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!
Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.
And all of Good Shepherd said,
"AMEN"

Sending Hymn

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises #535

Blessing

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.





Christ is risen, indeed!

Sooooooooo, now what?

Join us the next two Sundays for, "Children Say the Resurrectioniest Things."

We heard on Easter that we were Created to Be Storytellers. So, how do we go about telling that story? What story are we telling?

