

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Call to Worship – “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886, vv. 1 & 6*
(organ)

- 1 **Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**
- 6 **To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.**

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “Alleluia” *(organ)*
to the tune of “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (ELW 836)

**Alleluia, Alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise.
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled.
Jesus Christ the King of Glory now is risen from the dead.**

WORD

Reading: Acts 17:1-9

Reader: Carol Kilver

¹After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, ³explaining 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.' ⁴Some 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. ⁵But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market places, 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. ⁶When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, 'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, ⁷and 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.' ⁸The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, ⁹and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 13:9-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: "Don't Worry, Proclaim Good News"

1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain**
3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

Refrain

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“Who You Say I Am,” by R. Morgan & B. Fielding
sung by the Faith Singers

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742 (*organ*)

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**
2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -- take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness -- take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge -- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

“Welcome Table” (ACS 969) (piano)

1. I'm a-goin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
2. I'm a-goin'a feast on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'a feast on milk and honey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'a feast on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'a feast on milk and honey, some of these days.
3. I'm a-goin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song* – “How Great Is Our God/How Great Thou Art” ELW 856 (*piano*)

1. The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

2. Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!”
Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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“How Great Is Our God,” words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash, © 2004 worshiptogether.com.

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News Updates

Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois—Good Shepherd Sunday—April 21

Good Shepherd Sunday is a day when congregations lift up LSSI programs and celebrate our shared ministry. LSSI is the social ministry organization of the three ELCA synods in Illinois. Last year, LSSI served over 50,000 people across the state by providing whole-person care through: mental health counseling, foster care, substance use services, affordable senior housing, services for at-risk families, residential support for adults with developmental disabilities, home care, and programs for current and formerly-incarcerated individuals. Our synod will have \$5,000 available to match gifts given by congregations and individuals for Good Shepherd Sunday. Visit LSSI.org/GSS to learn more about their services.

Friends From Faith

A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn: on the last Sunday of each month — everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. On **April 28**, you can visit the tall white table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

Christian Karaoke Night at Faith

Warm up your vocal cords, practice your favorite hymn, gospel, praise, Christian song and join us for the first ever Christian Karaoke Night at Faith Lutheran Church. Put **Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30pm** on your calendar and get ready for a fun night of sharing and singing. Invite your friends to join the fun! We'll gather in the Great Room. All the technology will be set up and ready to go! Snacks will be provided by Faith Lutheran Youth for a free-will offering. If you would like to help by providing a snack, please contact Martha Krohe. Questions about the music should be directed to Patty Nelson.

Bells in Motion Concert at Faith

Bells in Motion will be presenting an *Out of this World* concert on **Sunday, May 5 at 4:00 pm**. This is a free concert, but a donation would be appreciated. Some of the music they will be ringing is the Star Trek theme, Star Wars medley by John Williams, music from Lord of the Rings, plus other favorites such as *Fly Me to the Moon*.

If you want to be entertained and mesmerized by awesome bell ringing, you need to come to this concert. The kids and grandkids will love it as well.



Book Discussion – April 28

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've got to Get Out of the Boat, by John Ortberg will teach you how to move beyond fear to discover God's unique calling for your life! Glen VanderKloot will lead discussion on **Sunday, April 28**, in the Justice Room at 10:45am.

Peter may have been the first one out of the boat, but Jesus' invitation to walk on water is for you as well. But walk on water? What does that even mean? This book helps you answer Christ's call to greater faith, power-filled deeds, and a new way of knowing how to discern God's call, transcend fear, risk faith, manage failure, and trust God. Relating the story in Matthew 14 to life today, teacher and bestselling author John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. Books are available for \$10 in the gathering area on the cabinet under the working cross.

Save the date!

May 5th is going to be a day full of joyous reunions, heartfelt gratitude, and meaningful reflections as we welcome back Pastor Adam and the Dichsen family AND celebrate Pastor Paul and Ann Schwartzkopf's contributions to our Faith Family. Also, some members of Faith will share their sabbatical experiences and aspirations for the future.

After the 9:30 service, a **potluck lunch** will be served. After all, what better way to look ahead than with family, food, and faith by your side? See you all at 9:30 am for the service! Don't forget to **sign up for the potluck on the counter outside the sanctuary**.

Youth Group Help Wanted

One of the hats worn by Pastor Adam is youth leader. In his absence, we are looking for people willing to lead an event, host a meal, or lead a youth Sunday school class. If you are interested, please let Kelly Hartz know. We have a wonderful group of youth, and you would be blessed by your time with them!

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Contribution Envelopes for 2024 are available in the office.