

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Second Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table or hand it to an usher.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by Heidi Cooper in memory of her father, Einair Rollins.

SUNDAY/PRAISE

GATHERING SONG “Oh Praise the Name (Anástasis)”

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Savior on that cursed tree
His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

Chorus:

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

Chorus

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Chorus (2x)

*Oh Lord oh Lord our God
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

“O Praise the Name (Anástasis).” Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson. © 2015 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Capitol CMG Publishing).
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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (He's Alive)”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious king, Alleluia!
Where O death is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory O grave, Alleluia!

Chorus:

He's alive, He's alive!

*Night has gone and dawn has come
He's alive, He's alive!
Death has lost and life has won!
He's alive!*

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Chorus (2X)

He's alive!

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (He's Alive).” Words by Charles Wesley. New Words & Music by Kirk Kirkland. © 2014 McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI) (admin. by LifeWay
c/o Music Services, www.musicaservices.org). CCLI #858354.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 118:14-29

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ **Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ **The LORD is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.**

READING FROM GOD'S WORD

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So 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."

²⁶ A 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." ²⁷ Then 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But 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.

KIDS' MESSAGE

"He is Risen — Believe It!"

Pastor James

RESPONSE SONG:

"Come Out of That Grave (Resurrection Song)"

There's a sling in my voice
And a stone in my praise
Pushing back when the darkest weapons
form
There's a power on my lips
Even death can't defy
When the name of our God is lifted high

Chorus:

*'Cause there is resurrection power
When we sing the name of Jesus
Resurrection power
When we raise a mighty sound
So come on let the praise get loud
Make that empty grave resound
'Cause there is resurrection power
In His name*

There are days I have seen
Filled with heartache and loss

That have buried my heart beneath their
weight
But every time His praise breaks out
Dead things rise up from the ground
I won't leave my song inside that empty
grave

Chorus

Dead man come out of that grave
Come out of that grave when we sing
Captives let go of those chains
Let go of those chains when we praise
(Repeat)

Chorus

Dead man come out of that grave
Come out of that grave when we sing
Captives let go of those chains
Let go of those chains when we praise
(Repeat)

"Come Out of That Grave (Resurrection Song)." Brian Johnson, Chris Davenport. © 2019 SHOUT MP Brio; Bethel Music Publishing. CCLI #858354.

MESSAGE

"The Faith of the Doubter"

Pastor James

MUSICAL REFLECTION

OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Communications Director Jeff Donahue

*Please take this opportunity to fill out the Welcome Card and hand it to one of the ushers or place it
in the basket on the Welcome/resource table as you leave.*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After the pastor says "Lord, hear our prayer," we respond by singing:

Band: You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father
You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father

People: ***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy***
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy

THE 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.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **God of grace and mercy, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions; time and time again we have failed to love You with all that we have; we have failed to love our neighbors and those in need. Forgive the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. For our sins we deserve separation from you. But Lord, You are overflowing with mercy. Bring back to life within us the joy of Your saving grace; heal our brokenness, give light to our path, and rest to our souls. Give us the desire and the power to grow in Your image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Some notes about Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My body ... this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26–27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have received their First Communion, examined themselves, acknowledge the true body and blood of Jesus Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us in this holy meal.

The cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice for those who do not wish to drink wine.

COMMUNION SONG "Even If"

They say sometimes you win some
Sometimes you lose some
And right now right now I'm losing bad
I've stood on this stage night after night
Reminding the broken it'll be alright
But right now oh right now I just can't

Pre-Chorus 1:

It's easy to sing

When there's nothing to bring me down

But what will I say

*When I'm held to the flame like I am right
now*

Chorus 1:

I know You're able and I know You can

Save through the fire with Your mighty hand

But even if You don't

My hope is You alone

They say it only takes a little faith

To move a mountain

Well good thing

A little faith is all I have right now

Pre-Chorus 2: But God when You choose

To leave mountains unmovable

Oh give me the strength to be able to sing

It is well with my soul

Chorus 1

Chorus 2:

*I know the sorrow and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone*

You've been faithful
You've been good all of my days

Jesus I will cling to You
Come what may
'Cause I know You're able
I know You care

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

It is well with my soul
It is well it is well with my soul

"Even If." Bart Millard, Ben Glover, Crystal Lewis, David Arthur Garcia, Tim Timmons. © 2017 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; 9t One Songs; Ariose Music; D Soul Music; All Essential Music; Letsbebeautiful; Tunes of MercyMe; Crystallized. CCLI #858354.

BLESSING & SENDING

SENDING SONG

"Praise"

I'll praise in the valley
Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure
Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered
Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water
My enemies drown in

Pre-Chorus:

*As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to*

Chorus 1:

*Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I'll praise when I feel it
And I'll praise when I don't
I'll praise 'cause I know
You're still in control
'Cause my praise is a weapon
It's more than a sound
My praise is the shout
That brings Jericho down

Pre-Chorus:

*As long as I'm breathing
I've got a reason to*

Chorus 2:

*Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul*

*I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign
Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the
grave

I'll praise 'cause You're faithful
Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater
than You

(Repeat)

Chorus 3:

*Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul*

I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

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Instagram.com/gslcva

Connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' message, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Ushers	Goodwyn Morgan (lead) Martin Farley
Greeter	Sally Cors (door)
Guest Welcome	Brian Cors
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Praise Team	Tara Planeta (violin) Maryanne Perkel (cello) Peter Revell (bass) Julian Berkowitz (drums) Matt Hardy (leader; guitar, vocals)
Altar Guild	Sharon Gurtz
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Scott Shepherd
Livestream Manager	Adam Sherman
Closer	Martin Farley
Kitchen Cleanup	Jan Morgan

Be a part of the SUNDAY/PRAISE community by serving in our worship gatherings as greeters, ushers, singers, instrumentalists, AV support, and others. Interested? Contact us by emailing gslc@gslcva.org or calling 703-437-5020.

Board of Servant Leaders

Laura Blackburn, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Larry Austin
Paul Kasulis
Jennifer Pelletier
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Gary James, Assisting Pastor

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Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

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Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

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Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

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Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

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Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

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Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant

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Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

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Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

From the New Testament

Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

From the New Testament

Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.