

APRIL 30, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church
35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525

PRELUDE

O Church, Like Christ Arisen

setting, Ronald Nelson; ©2014 Augsburg Fortress

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 369 Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.,

Music: Robert Williams, 1781–1821

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 789 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

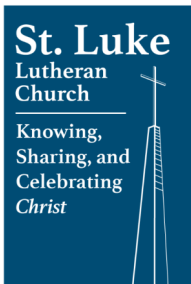
SENDING HYMN:

ELW 548 Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953–2021, ©1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Music: Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958, ©1997 Augsburg Fortress

All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Sundays and Seasons.com ©2023 Augsburg Fortress. Printed and Streamed with permission Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SA006561 and OneLicense #A-729465; otherwise, Public Domain.



Lincoln Noecker,
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,
Office Administrator

Executive Officers:

Connie Hukari, President
Dave Janzow, Vice President
Pam Reifsnyder, Secretary
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

Congregational Council:

John Bealer
Donna Biehl
Donna Conrad
Michael Ferraro

Connie Hukari
Dave Janzow
Tim Kenna
Bonnie Kuser
Pam Reifsnyder
Tom Undercuffler
Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org
610-367-9738

St. Luke Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

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 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia*

ELW 369

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Sunday God our shepherd,
you know your sheep by name
and lead us to safety through the valleys of death.

**Guide us by your voice,
that we may walk in certainty and security
to the joyous feast prepared in your house,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

A reading from Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures**

and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth."

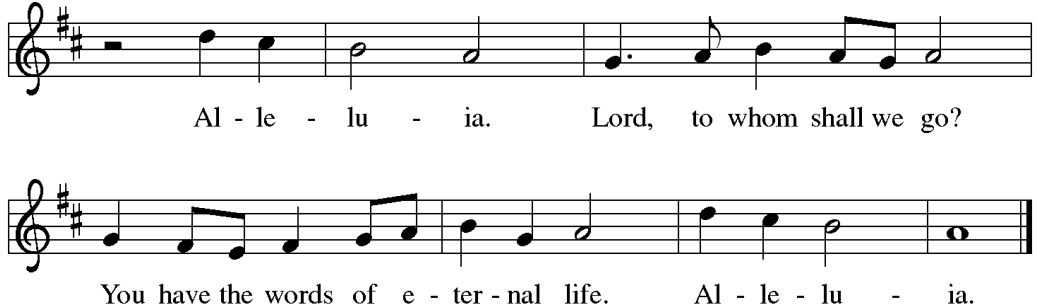
²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to John 10:1-10

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,

we give thanks for your gifts.

Reveal to us the Risen One.

Send us out in service to the world;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

Church, receive this blessing.

The God of all,
who raised ✙ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

ELW 548

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com

Lectionary for May 1-6

Monday – Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday – Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday – Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

Friday – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

Saturday – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 ; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

Today's Worship Leaders:

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Joe Vendetti

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Larry Billger, Terry Conrad

Sacristan: Val Schlegel

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- Emmalyn Moyer, recovering at home from heart surgery
- Palmer Candy Co. and all first responders

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- Family & friends of Stacey (Puzauskas) Hensley, neighbors of the Pam & Mike Ferraro
-

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone

Tom Bucks

Kristopher Yoder

Jalen Gray

Larry Kuser

Sharon Smith

Bonnie Ritter

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Charles & Gloria Christman

Jean & Bill Christy

Marie Geiger

Paul McFarland

Ruth Nice

Helen Penketh

Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Cookie Stasik

IN OUR PRAYERS: This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

May 1 PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

May 2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373

May 4 Monica, mother of Augustine, 387

Items Needed for Veterans

Our local Veteran's group is in need of specific items which are always a challenge to keep on hand. These items include thermals, sweat pants and crew neck sweat shirts. Dale Shaner's Thrivent Team has provided seed money to purchase these items. If you would like to make a donation for our Vets, please choose a tag or two from the Giving Tree in the Narthex. We have also placed a box in the Narthex for those who would like to donate. We will be collecting until **TODAY**.



Date	Week of April 30-May 6	Location
Sunday, April 30 4th Sunday of Easter	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday, May 2	6:30 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Choir Room Memorial Hall
Wednesday, May 3	1:00-4:00 pm CCR Donations 7:00 pm Handbells	CCR Nave
Thursday, May 4	6:30 pm Girl Scouts	Memorial Hall
Friday, May 5	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sunday, May 7	Sunday, May 14
Lector	Kathy Billger	Pat Hallman
Ushers	Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari
Audio Video	Ron Ball	Mike Ferraro
Office Volunteer	Cindy Bealer (May 4)	Pat Hallman (May 11)
Sacristan	Sandi Quicksell	Sandi Quicksell

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our March Commitment</u>		<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$13,064	\$8,921	- \$4,143
Mission Support	\$544	\$ 569	\$ 25

100th Anniversary Campaign
Pledges received year to date: \$96,430
Actual monies received to date: \$123,514



READER

Easter 4

- Today is the **fourth Sunday** in **Easter**.
- There are **seven Sundays** in the Easter season.

Lucky Sevens

Start with number seven. Connect all of the multiples of seven in order to reveal a symbol for Easter.

