

# April 21, 2024: Easter 4

## Thanksgiving for Baptism and Rolling Away of Stones

Christ is Risen!

### Christ is Risen Indeed!

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

In grief, the tomb seems to be final.

**“Who’s going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?”**

Easter calls us to see beyond the tomb and beyond death.

**But even there, we are afraid...**

The stones that weigh down our lives seem too great.

**“Who will roll the stone away?”**

Like that first easter morning, we fear. Afraid of what we will discover inside ourselves... So we ask God:

**Roll away the stone of death... Roll away the stone in our hardened hearts...**

**Roll away the stone in our souls...**

God is in the stone rolling business...

God rolls away stones, and fills those places with living water, life giving water of baptism.

**God rolls away the stone of sin and brokenness, the stones of indifference and self-centeredness, the stones of anger and resentment.**

All rolled away. All is forgiven. All is made new. In their place, the waters of Baptism bring new life, the living water that flows with God’s abundant grace. **Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ELW 502)



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and, oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

# Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

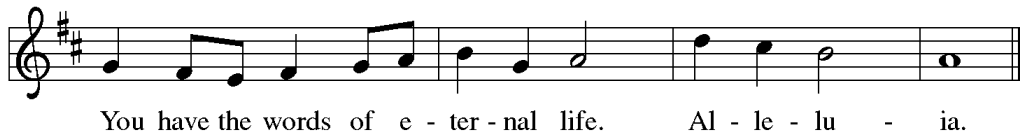
## Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## Gospel Acclamation

The Alleluia, absent during the somber season of Lent, returns. It is sung before and after the Gospel reading.



## GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

### HYMN OF THE DAY *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW 789)



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-prepare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

## 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition will end with the words "God of grace," and the assembly responds with "hear our prayer."*

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you."*

## ANTHEM: *Touch That Soothes and Heals: See My Hands and Feet*

### *Verse 1:*

*Touch that soothes and heals the hurting, hands that break a loaf of bread;  
steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead:*

### Refrain

*"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.  
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."*

### *Verse 2:*

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care,  
give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there.

### *Verse 3:*

Love and serve without distinction all earth's people, first and least.  
Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased.

### *Verse 4:*

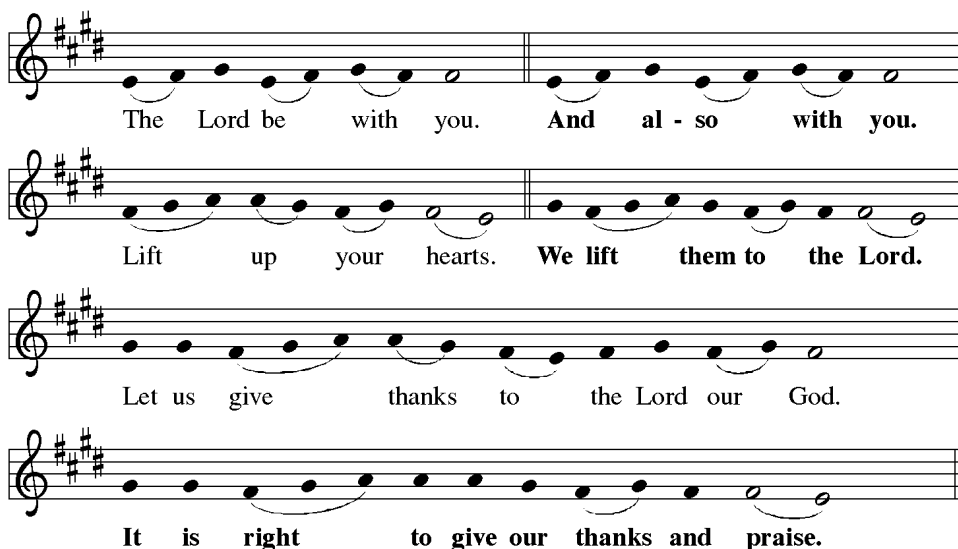
Hands that beckon little children, bind a wound, prepare a meal,  
feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal.

## Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### Offering Prayer

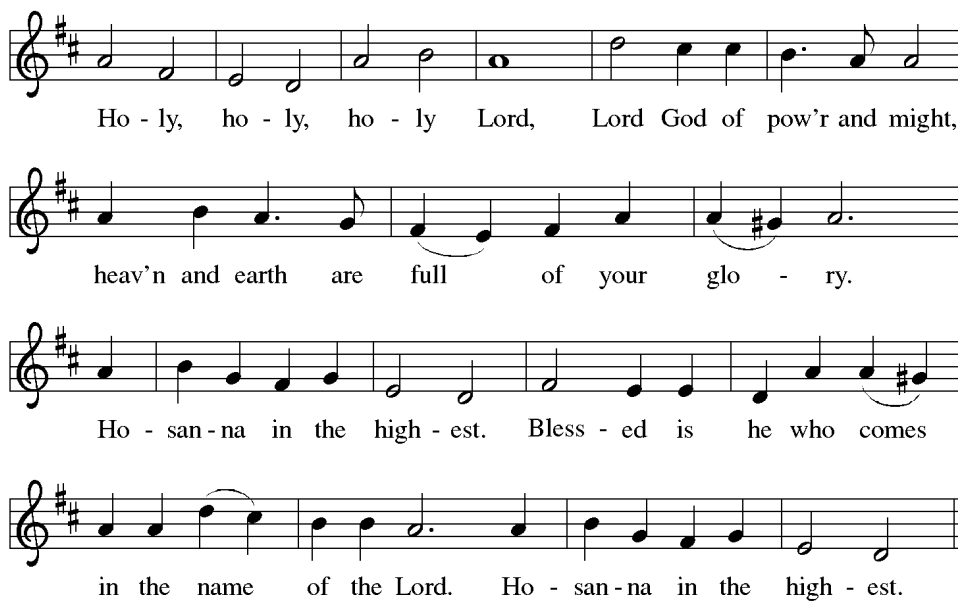
#### Great Thanksgiving Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Preface

#### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Words of Institution

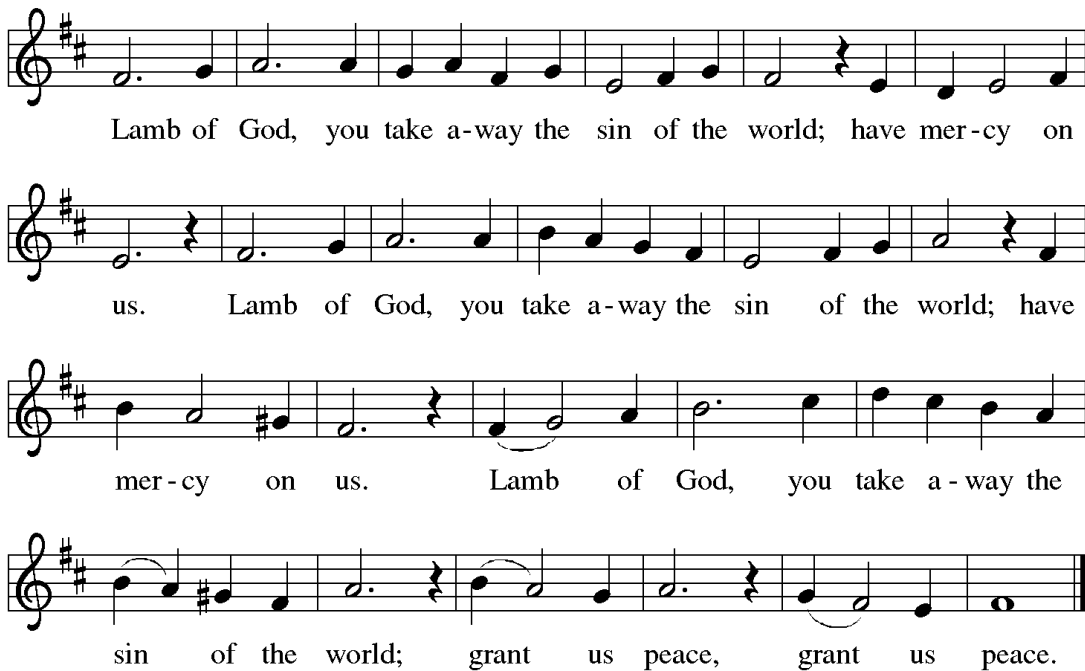
#### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## Lamb Of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Song: *The Lord's My Shepherd* (ELW 778)



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;  
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

## Prayer after Communion

### Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

✚ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG *Shepherd Me, O God* (ELW 780)

*Refrain*  
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

*to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5* | *to stanza 4*



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I  
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my  
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

*Refrain*



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

*Final refrain*  
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. God is Rolling Away the Stones.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!