

evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(ELW p. 154)

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of Grace! There are gluten free wafers and grape juice available.

COMMUNION SONG

(ELW p. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God... mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

ST. LUKE'S RULE OF LOVE (READ RESPONSIVELY)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious; or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Called by God in our baptism and filled with the presence of Christ through the Lord's Supper, we believe love should show itself through our individual lives in:

Thought by **before acting, our thoughts should reflect kindness, grace and acceptance.**

Word by **hearing, respecting, praying for you with kindness, love and care.**

Deed by **putting others before oneself, being obedient to our faith in God and by acting in a God caring way towards others.**

As members of the body of Christ and citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we will show this love in our life together at St. Luke's Lutheran church:

In what we do by **listening in kindness and acceptance. Seek common ground, learn and adjust. If necessary, we disagree with love and respect.**

in responding to unloving and disrespectful behavior by **respectfully listening and clarifying your reasoning. We will strive to find a mutual solution through love and kindness. If necessary we will part ways with grace.**

BLESSING (ELW p. 155)

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN"

ELW 536

DISMISSAL

(ELW p. 155)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers in loving memory of Carol Cushing given by Charles, Karen, Hannah, and Rachel Berry, and Charles Cushing .

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church

3200 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 523-7981

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024
10:00am



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(ELW p. 94)

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

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS"

ELW 502

GREETING

(ELW p. 147)

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.**

KYRIE

(ELW p. 147)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p. 148)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY**(ELW p. 150)**Let us pray...Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.****NOISY OFFERING FOR CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS & CHILDREN'S CHURCH****FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12****(NRSV NT p. 147)**

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.****PSALM: 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.⁴**Though 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.⁶**Surely 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: 1 John 3:16-24****(NRSV NT p. 292)**

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****(ELW p. 151)****Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.****GOSPEL: John 10:11-18****(NRSV NT p. 126)**The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves

me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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****"WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME"****ELW 798****CREED (ELW p. 152)****I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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....God of grace, **hear our prayer.**....through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.****PEACE****OFFERING****ANTHEM****"I HAVE FELT THE TOUCH OF GOD"**

Music by Lloyd Larson Words by Ray McCutcheon & Lloyd Larson

OFFERING RESPONSE**ELW 182**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.****DIALOGUE****(ELW p. 152)**The Lord be with you. **And also 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****(ELW p. 153)****HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****(ELW p. 153)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**(ELW p. 153)**...be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.****LORD'S PRAYER****(ELW p. 154)**

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