**Christus Lutheran Church**

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**Large Print**

April 14, 2024

8am - 10:30am

**PRELUDE** *Ann Crocker*

**WELCOME/CHANGE for CHANGE**

 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

*Kneel as you are able, or remain seated*

*Silence for reflection on our sins*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C: left to our own choices, we always end up in sin. Show us the consequences of unrepentant living, so that we might be brought to repentance. By the blood of Christ, save us; forgive us; and captivate our wills to follow you. We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen**

**P:** You who are brought to true repentance are also given true faith. The death of Christ brings you the entire forgiveness of all your sins; and his resurrection is now your new life.

**C: Amen! Thanks be to God through our Lord**

**Jesus Christ!**

*Stand*

**PEACE**

**P:** “Peace to all of you who are in Christ.” *(1 Peter 5:14)*

**C: And also to you.**

**HYMN: God Himself Is Present** *LBW #249*

1. God himself is present; Let us now adore him

 and with awe appear before him!

 God is in him temple; All with-in keep silence,

 Prostrate lie with deepest rev’rence.

 Him alone God we own,

 Him, our God and Savior; Praise his name forever!

 2. God himself is present; Hear the harps resounding;

 See the hosts the throne surrounding!

 “Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending,

 Songs of saints and angels blending.

 Bow your ear to us here:

 Hear, O Christ, the praises that your Church now raises.

3. Light of light eternal, all things penetrating,

 For your rays our soul is waiting.

 As the tender flowers, willingly unfolding,

 To the sun their faces holding:

 Even so would we do,

 Light from you obtaining, strength to serve you gaining.

4. Come, celestial Being, make our hearts your dwelling,

 Ev’ry carnal thought dispelling.

 By your Holy Spirit sanctify us truly,

 Teaching us to love you only.

 Where we go here below,

 Let us bow before you and in truth adore you.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray. Merciful heavenly Father;

**C: in your beloved Son, you have revealed your intentions toward us. Give us faith to believe in your love and forgiveness, and in the promise that because He lives, we too shall live; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Be Seated*

**FIRST LESSON: Acts 3:11-21**

**R:** The first lesson is from the book of Acts, the 3rd chapter

 **11**While [the now-healed paralytic] clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. **12**And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? **13**The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

**14**But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15**and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16**And his name - by faith in his name -

has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

 **17**“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18**But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. **19**Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, **20**that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

**21**whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

**R:** The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 4**

**1** Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
**You have given me relief when I was in distress.
    Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!**

**2**O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
**How long will you love vain words**

 **and seek after lies?
3**But know that the Lord has set apart the godly

 for himself;
**the Lord hears when I call to him.**

**4**Be angry, and do not sin;
 **ponder in your own hearts on your beds,**

 **and be silent.
5**Offer right sacrifices,
**and put your trust in the Lord.**

**6**There are many who say,

 “Who will show us some good?
**Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!”
7**You have put more joy in my heart
**than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

**8**In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
**for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

**SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1-7**

**R:** The second lesson is from 1 John, the 3rd chapter

**1** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2**Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **3**And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**4**Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. **5**You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **6**No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. **7**Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

**R:** The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24:36-49**

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke the 24th chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

 **36**As [the disciples] were talking about [Jesus’ appearing to them in Emmaus,] Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” **37**But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. **38**And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39**See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40**And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41**And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42**They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43**and he took it and ate before them.

 **44**Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46**and said to them,

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47**and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49**And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Be Seated*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me** *LBW #333*

1. Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life’s way;

 Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.

 Without your grace and favor I go astray;

 So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

2. Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;

 For you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.

 Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,

 For when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

3. Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,

 I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,

 And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!

 So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

**NICENE CREED**

**P:** Together with the saints of all times and places, we confess the one, true faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed: **C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 THE CHURCH**

**OFFERING**

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P**: Let us pray. Heavenly Father –

**C: we return to you not what is ours, but only what you have entrusted to our care. Make us faithful stewards, that your kingdom may come to us and through us. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen**

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

 **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

 **LORD’S PRAYER**

*Be Seated*

 **DISTRIBUTION**

*Stand*

 **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**BENEDICTION**

**P**: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift

his countenance upon you and give you peace; in the

name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**HYMN: How Great Thou Art** *LBW #532*

1. 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 pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

*Refrain: 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!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,

 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur

 and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

 *Refrain*

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,

 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,

 that on the cross my burden gladly bearing

 He bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

4. 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!”

 *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** We go in peace, to fear God, love God, and trust God.

**C: He is to be feared and loved, and He can be trusted. Amen**

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*Our mission is to invite people of all nations*

*into fellowship with Jesus Christ,*

*and to make them His disciples*

*through preaching and teaching Christ crucified, risen*

*and coming again as the only hope of eternal salvation.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All the baptized who believe in the true presence of Christ

in these elements, the bread and wine,

and who know their need of forgiveness,

are welcome to receive the Lord’s Supper.

**(1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt.26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19, 20)**

*Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available – please ask your server for the gluten free* *wafer if you so choose.*

*Children who have not received instruction, and those who do not believe in the true presence of Christ in the Supper, may come forward with arms crossed over their hearts to receive a blessing.*

 ***Christus Lutheran Church***

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