



# Advent Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, April 25, 2021  
Holy Humor Sunday

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.*

*We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.*

*Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.***

HYMN

Give Us Laughter Unexpected  
A Hymn of Thanks for Laughter

Piano

1. Give us laugh - ter un - ex - spect - ed, mirth that mo - thers us to health;  
2. Though our grief can be so heav - y, bur - dens break our brit - tle bones,  
3. When we think cre - a - tion's o - ver, when we think there is no more,  
4. Blessed are you who weep with sor - row; soon the laugh - ter comes to save.

bubb - ling up from deep with - in us, end - less source of wond - rous wealth.  
there ex - ists a salve that soft - ens hurt a - mid the mourn - ful moans.  
lead us to re - think our lo - gic, help our joy - ous song re - store.  
God, our joy - ful source of mer - cy, rais - es you up from the grave.

May our tears flow o'er our cheek - bones, not of sor - row but of mirth;  
Laugh - ter char - ges not a co - pay, needs no cre - dit to ob - tain.  
There's a cheer - ful balm that saves us from the sor - row and the sting.  
Nev - er cease to loose your chuck - les, laugh out loud and let it fly!

free - ly flow - ing sill - y gig - gles, ones that mend this bro - ken earth.  
All may ga - ther at the fount - ain, for a mo - ment, heal the pain.  
Laugh - ter is the gift with - in us, sprout - ing up from joy - ous spring!  
Hold your - self in ho - ly hu - mor, share God's joy in strong sup - ply!

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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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Holy God of all great reversals, through you all loss becomes gain, all rejection becomes the central cornerstone, and all power become service in love. Inspire us to see in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ the great irony of your reign. Keep us in your good humor that compels us to be advocates for justice, mercy, and love, through the power of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### ***This Is the Day***

*Echo Song*

Led by Children's Choirs for congregation

### **READING – Acts 4:5 – 12**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

*The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is*

*'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'*

*There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."*

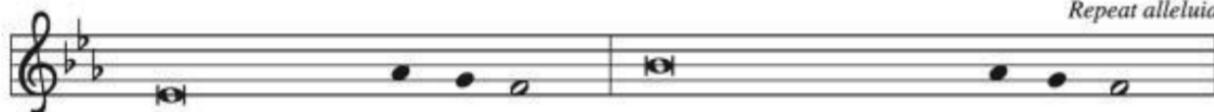
*Word of God. Word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## HOLY GOSPEL – John 10:11 – 18

*The holy gospel according to John.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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 – Pastor Elizabeth Felt**

HYMN

Shepherd Me, O God

*Refrain*  
All

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from

death in - to life. life.

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

Leader or All

1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I  
2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you  
3 Though I should wander the valley of death, I

rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I  
lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my  
fear no evil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*

walk by the quiet waters of peace.  
spirit shall sing the music of your name.  
rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a banquet of love in the face of

*Refrain*

hatred, crowning me with love beyond my power to hold.

Leader or All

5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;



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

*Final refrain*



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



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23  
Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen  
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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*God in your mercy.*

**Hear our prayer.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**And also with you.**

# THANKSGIVING

*The Holy Spirit inspires us to give thanks for God's saving word and all the gifts of God.*

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## OFFERING

### ANTHEM

***Exuberant Joy!***

Resound! Handbell Choir

### THANKSGIVING OF THE WORD

*Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life:*

*creating a wondrous universe,*

*proclaiming freedom from captivity,*

*becoming the song of your people.*

*We praise you, O God, for your Word.*

**We praise you, O God, for your Word.**

*Your Word is made flesh among us:*

*with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.*

*With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe.  
With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice.  
Your Word names our death and our life:  
a seed that falls into the earth and dies,  
rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth,  
a vine in which we abide.  
Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last.  
We bless you, O God, for your Word.*  
**We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

*By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things.  
Breathe into us your Holy Spirit.  
Open our minds to understand the scriptures.  
Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with our hands  
concerning the word of life.  
Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone,  
but in truth and action.  
With every creature in heaven and on earth  
and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them,  
we join in the hymn of all creation, as  
we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.*  
**We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.**  
**Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

# SENDING

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

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## **BENEDICTION**

### **HYMN**

### **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

#### CHORUS

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus is alive.

#### VERSE 1

While soldiers watched the gravesite  
that quiet Sunday dawn  
there came a big commotion  
and then the storm was gone.

#### CHORUS

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus is alive.

#### VERSE 2

The women found no body  
their spices to anoint;  
instead they found an angel,  
God's message to appoint.

#### CHORUS

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus is alive.

#### VERSE 3

Go from where He isn't  
to where He said He'd be.  
An Easter-time reunion:  
the hills of Galilee.

#### CHORUS

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus is alive.

**DISMISSAL**

*Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.*

*Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**