

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION April 22, 2018 – 9:00 AM

> CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Washed in the Water! Stay tuned, for today we learn more of how the lives of the baptized are shaped by generosity and sacrifice. [Sundays and Seasons]

Breaking the sound barrier! We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher, Tom Kearns or David Crouse.

Pink Prayer Cards: You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the altar rail for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

Holy Communion: All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

Nursery Facilities: There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

Need an offering envelope? We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. We also accept checks online. Visit our website (www.clc4u.com) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

Contact Information:

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel Director of Music: Argine Safari **Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance** Parish Administrator: Doris Crouse 32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 201-391-4224 clc4u2@verizon.net

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Open on Sundays: 9:00 and 10:30 am

For today's worship all *portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders*. Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type**.

[Please stand.]

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for Woodcliff Lake Reservoir, Pascack Brook and Bear Brook. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place. We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water. We give you thanks for your salvation through water. We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world. We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON [The congregation may sit.]

THE FIRST READING - 1 John 3:16-24

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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. John 10:11-18 Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The 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, ¹⁵ just 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.

CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS [The congregation may sit.] [Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

SERMON – "Love By This"

SONG – "Cornerstone" [The offering will be received during the singing of the following song.]

Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero and Edward Mote

Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero and William Batchelder Bradbury



[Song continues on the following page.]





APOSTLES' CREED [Please stand.]

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.

[Please remain standing.]

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

Loving God, you teach us to keep nothing from you. We bring to you all our prayers, large and small, those heavy on our hearts and those known only to you.

Bless all who shepherd your sheep and guide them in their serving. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, church custodians, parish administrators, Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, baptismal sponsors, deacons, pastors, youth workers, and bishops. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect and guide first responders. Bring mercy and justice with their presence. We pray for military personnel, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, and for disaster relief and crisis intervention teams. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Support and guide all elected officials. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart. We pray for Donald, the President; Cory and Robert, our federal Senators; and Josh, our federal Representative; and all local and state civic leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Heal and renew all who ache for a better tomorrow. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the forgotten, the nameless, and the outcasts; for our enemies; and for our loved ones, especially...

Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Angela, Kaiya Barber, Beth Birnbaum, Bill Caver, John Bliefernich, Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy, Peter Gluesing, Kim Herrera, Mae Hulburt, Millie and Roger Hildebrand, Sherry Kindlin, Marie Kober, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Florence Leonard, Meghan Otte, Joyanna Peros, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar, Camp Koinonia, City of Austin

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

HOLY COMMUNION

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

[The congregation may sit.]

HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.
At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail.
Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),
followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups.
A chalice with wine is also available.
Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.]

[Please stand.]

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL BLESSING

Dear Jesus, thank you for being our teacher. Teach all of us kids, parents, and adults, to see you in everyone around us. Help us think of the needs of others so that we can love, serve, and help all people like you do. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, I Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG – "More of You" [Please remain standing.]

Words and Music by Colton Dixon, Ben Glover and David Garcia =80 INTRO Gm⁷ Eb Bb F Eb F B VERSE Eb Bb Cm⁷ Gm⁷ Eb Bb 5 1. I I built up ev - 'ry wall, made my cas-tle tall, this is my king-dom, and it 2. This life I hold so close, O God, I let it go. I re-fuse to gain the world and Gm⁷ F E Bb Cm⁷ Gm⁷ 8 needs to fall. I want You and no one else. Emp - ty me of my - self lose my soul, ____ so take it all; I a-ban-don ev-'ry-thing I am, _ You can have it. % CHORUS E Bb F Eb Bb 11 un - til the on - ly thing that's left is: More of You, ____ less of me; _ make me who. The on - ly thing _____ that Ι need is: ____ Gm⁷ F E Bb F 14 I'm meant to be. __You're all I want, ____ all I need, _ You're ev - 'ry-thing. ____ Eb Bb Gm⁷ F Eb Bb 17

Take it all! I sur-ren-der; be my _ King. _ God I choose __ more of You, ____ and less of me.



[The song continues on the following page.]



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Other sheep. One flock.

I wonder what the disciples were thinking when Jesus spoke about "other sheep." Could they imagine who those others were? Would they want others to be included anyways?

The disciples were there during Jesus' early ministry. They witnessed his acts of power. They saw Jesus literally walk on water. I'm sure they were impressed by what Jesus could do and what he said. As his ministry grew, political and religious authorities pushed back. Jesus was challenged in public and forced to defend what he was doing. The disciples, I'm sure, were forced to do the same. Scripture is clear that the disciples never truly understood what Jesus was doing. They struggled to understand what he taught, and they were not clear about who he really was. But when the disciples were confronted by others, I imagine it gave them a false sense of righteousness, a belief that they understood exactly who Jesus was. At the same time, however, the disciples probably were very afraid. They didn't know if the people they spoke to would welcome them or challenge them. The disciples would not know what other people, outside of Jesus' inner circle, would do. Other people, then, would be unknown variables. And Jesus just told his disciples that those unknown variables, the people who make the disciples afraid, will be Jesus' followers.

It's sometimes difficult for us to imagine the diversity inherent in the body of Christ. Faith itself is a gift from God and a gift that God gives to us in a very personalized way. God knows each of us and knows what our faith needs. This is amazing and wonderful. But it also means that what our neighbor needs might not be what we need. And that their shape and experience of faith might be different from our own. But regardless of our faith, and whether we identify as Lutheran Christians, Eastern Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholic Christians, Reformed Christians, Non-Denominational Christians, and more - we are all followers of Christ. And we are all invited to keep our eyes, our heart, and our focus on the Jesus who guides us all.