



Fourth Sunday of Easter

University Lutheran Church
Cambridge, Massachusetts

April 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” [CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN] — Tune in *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein* (1524) by Johann Walter (1496–1570); setting by Georg Böhm (1661–1773)

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

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

GATHERING HYMN ELW 370 “Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands”

APOSTOLIC 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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE “Now the Feast and Celebration”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

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.**

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 4:5–12

A reading from Acts.

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 Peter and John 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 being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being 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

The congregation sings all the psalm verses, and also sings the response at the beginning and when indicated below.

Response



Though I walk through the val-ley of the sha-dow of death, I shall fear no e-vil; for you are



with me; your rod and your staff they com-fort me, com - fort me.



¹The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴Though 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. **Response**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. **Response**

SECOND READING 1 John 3:16–24

A reading from 1 John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us— and we ought to lay down our lives for the members of the community. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees someone in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before God ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, ²²and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey the commandments and do what pleases God.

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

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Celtic Alleluia”



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

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

GOSPEL John 10:11–18

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 *Carrie Ballenger*

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 878 “Soli Deo Gloria”

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 whom all things were made;**

**who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made human;**

**who, for our sake, was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
suffered death and was buried;
on the third day rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead;
and whose 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 worshipped 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

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the Sanctuary. For those worshipping via Zoom: Prayers may also be typed in the chat box to be read by the intercessor.

Let us pray for the life of the world, the intentions of all the faithful, and for any in sorrow or need.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy, or Bless we the Holy One!
Hear our prayer. **Thanks be to God!**

Into your care, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, the Beloved. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “The King of Love” — Text by Henry Williams Baker (1821–1977); melody Irish Traditional, arranged by Paul Christiansen (1914–1997)

The King of Love my shepherd is whose goodness faileth never,
I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
good shepherd may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Many people in our community already give on-line. Visit www.unilu.org/giving if you would like to set up electronic funds transfer or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138; there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail. **To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), you may also visit <https://givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church> or scan the QR code.**



OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presider may invite the assembly to join in proclaiming the mystery of faith with these or similar words:

... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

The presider may invite the assembly to join in exclaiming the Great Amen with these or similar words:

... be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as "Abba," Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray,

**God our Mother, God 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.**

INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

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

The Body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

Those worshipping via Zoom: Individuals may commune themselves and households may give the bread and wine/grape juice to one another with the same wording: The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 535 “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises” (*Halleluya! Pelo tsa rona*)

ELW 481 “Come to the Table”

ELW 364 “Christ Has Arisen”



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 HYMN ELW 674 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” [Linstead] —
Jamaican folk tune, adapted by Doreen Potter (1925–1980); setting by
John A. Behnke (b. 1953)

<p>SERVING TODAY Preacher & Presider: Carrie Ballenger; Assisting Minister: Dylan Nelson; Reader: Nathaniel Fasman; Intercessor: Helen Schwickrath; Usher: Chris Porter; Musicians: Imogene Stulken, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, and the UniLu Choir; Tech Verger: Kiefer Hicks.</p>

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:

Stacy Alan — friend of Pastor Carrie Ballenger
Floyd Arntz — UniLu member
David Bailey — friend of Gail Bucher
Ellen and Bob Bartlett — sister and brother-in-law of Gail Bucher
Margrit Betke — UniLu member
Louise Cohen — sister-in-law of Susan Worst
Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb
Solveig Ericson — UniLu member
Bob Flannery — UniLu member
Naomi Goldsby — niece of Kenton Goldsby
Vera Ryen Gregg — UniLu member
Mark Howell — brother-in-law of Chris Pollari
Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould
Bill Keto — brother of Karen Nichols
Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy
Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken
Phyllis Nelson — mother of Elyse Nelson Winger
Larry Nichols — UniLu member
Tony Parkes — friend of Chris Pollari and Ann Ferentz
Birgitta Ralston — UniLu member
Johanna Ralston Lamb and the Ralston/Lamb family — UniLu members
Tim Richards — uncle of K.C. Kohler
Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken
Cindy Kent Spiehs — friend of Imogene Stulken
Judy Steele — sister of Phyllis Steele

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lütjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

We pray for all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY:

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director — Choir*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director — Organ*

MC Miller, *Communications Coordinator*

Kenton Goldsby, *Harvard Divinity School Ministry Intern*

Jessica Chicka, *Boston University Chaplain for International Students*

Brian Tracey, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

Selected liturgical materials are used by permission of onelicense.net #A-700151 (all rights reserved), including liturgical music from *Now the Feast and Celebration* (Marty Haugen), downloaded from Sundays and Seasons. Psalm setting composed by Bruce Broolsma.

Readings are reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Press from *Readings for the Assembly, New Revised Standard Version, Emended. Revised Common Lectionary, Cycle B*.

Cover information: Icon of Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd at Saint Patrick's College (Maynooth, Ireland), photo taken by K.C. Kohler, August 2024.

Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston – and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.