

Easter 4, April 25, 2021—CONFIRMATION SERVICE!

Easter Shout of Joy: (repeat 3 times)

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Announcements, Concerns, Joys

Call to Worship—Psalm 23

P: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.

P: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

C: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

P: I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

C: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

P: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

All: And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Song:** *Children of the Heavenly Father* (words by Pr. Gail) LBW 474, ELW 781

*Children of the heavenly Father, join in worship, praise together,
Grow in faith and grow in caring, in receiving and in sharing.*

*God has chosen and embraced you, with his favor he has graced you;
With his mercy he attends you, and to all the world he sends you.*

***The Kyrie**

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.**

***Prayer of the Day** 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, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Time:

Gathering of Confirmands *This is the Day* (CCLI 706169)

As the Confirmands come forward, please sing:

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

This portion of the service is in the separate bulletin.

A story from Acts, the 4th chapter (4:5-12) The background for today's reading is in chapter 3. Filled with the newly-received Holy Spirit, Peter and John had gone up to the temple to pray. They met a man lame from birth, who asked them for alms (money). Peter told him they had none, but—better than that—he healed the man.

The next day the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas and other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

A reading from 1st John, the 3rd chapter (3:16-24)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If we have material possessions and see people in need but have no pity on them, how can the love of God be in us? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he is in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

***Alleluia!** *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

***The holy gospel according to John, the 10th chapter (10:11:18)**

Glory to you, O Lord! (before)

Praise to you, O Christ! (after)

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (public domain) LBW 481, ELW 789
St. John: sing to *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, #50

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.*

*You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, yours we are eternally.*

***The Prayers of the Church** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 171, Augsburg Fortress)

Alive in the risen Christ, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear and answer us.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world, so that we may bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others, and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherd of youth, your child David was called to serve you while still young, your Son Jesus showed the depth of his faith at age 12. Open the hearts and minds of our young people who are confirmed today: Ashley, Blake, Corey (St. John) and Mitchell and Rebecca. Renew their hearts and minds daily to see you as part of their lives. With your Holy Spirit, prompt them again and again to seek your presence, your strength, your comfort. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved one who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, **Our Father**

Benediction

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (public domain) LBW 551, ELW 836

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!*

***Dismissal**

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Now go in peace and share the good news! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!