

Service of Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024 • 10:00 AM



About Calvary

Mission

The mission of Calvary Lutheran, a welcoming and nurturing church, is to provide a place where all can receive and share God's love.

Vision

By 2028, Calvary will be known for our community involvement; be a more diverse congregation, with more engaged members; be physically and spiritually inviting; encourage and provide more opportunities for learning and growth.

Land Acknowledgement

Calvary is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Nissaquogue, Secatogue, and Setalcott 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 and continue to call this land their home.

About Today's Worship

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Today's Worship Leadership

Altar Guild: Vivian Pentecoste Ushers: TBA Organist and Pianist: Paul Elsener Vocalist: Ari O'Connell Presiding Minister and Preacher: The Rev. Zachary Dean Assisting Minister: Seminarian Jun Bradshaw, Ellen Hoffman, Dcn. Bob Lewis



PRELUDE

ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #369 Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! The assembly stands.

GREETING

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

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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

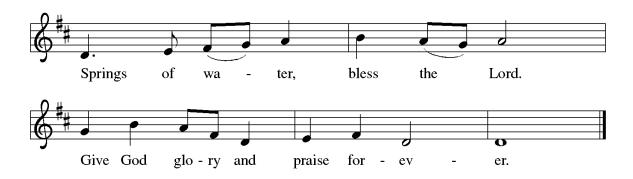
Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for by the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

The assembly sings the refrain. The cantor sings the verses.

Refrain



Buried with Christ in death, you are raised with him to life. Refrain

Bathed in the fountain of life, you are born to a living hope. Refrain

Rejoice, all you baptized, called to be children of God. Refrain

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, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: ACTS 4:5-12

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 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are 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.





1*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.*

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. You restore my soul and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. Though 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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

SECOND 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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION The assembly stands.



Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

Repeat Alleluia

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

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW #778** The Lord's My Shepherd The assembly stands to proclaim God's word in song.

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 him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped 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 THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you. Empower ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Commend the task of caring for creation to all people, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, the homeless, victims of abuse, and all who live with chronic illness. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Gracious God, help our community of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Bless the memory of those who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the risen Lord be with you always. And also with you.

Signs and words of God's peace are exchanged. Then, the assembly is seated.

Brief announcements are made.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

The gifts of bread and wine are gathered.



Gifts of money are collected for the mission of the church. Donations may be made using the QR code. You are encouraged to give generously in response to God's love!

The gift of music is offered to the glory of God. The King of Love My Shepherd Is, Henry W. Baker

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

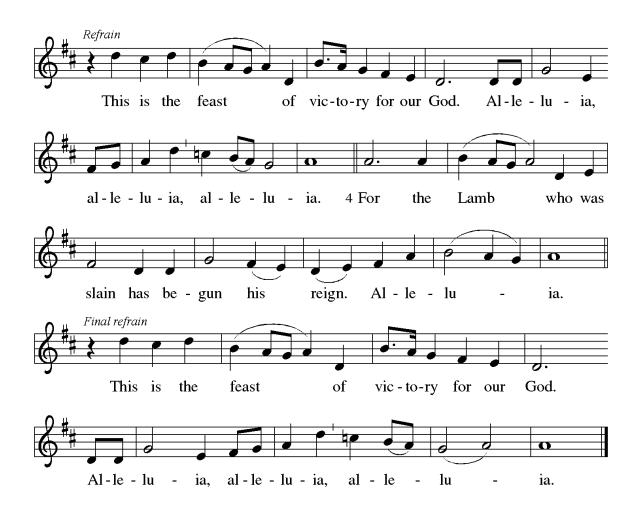
The assembly stands.

Gracious God, you reveal your Son to us in word and sacrament. Open our hearts to receive him now.

The scriptures have been proclaimed and now the meal is shared. Grant us to know the presence of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SETTING THE TABLE



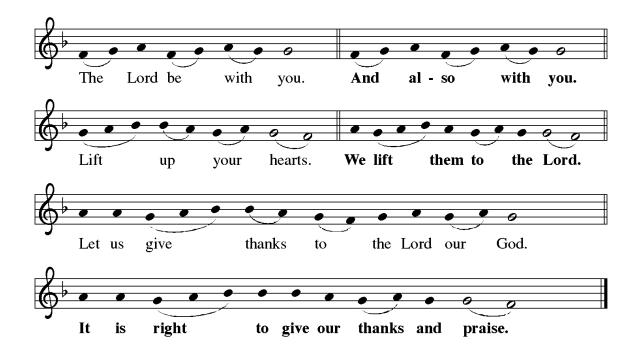


PRAYER

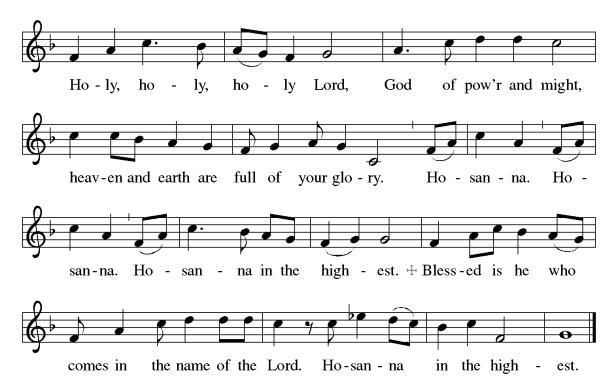
Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks to God.



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



Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again**.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

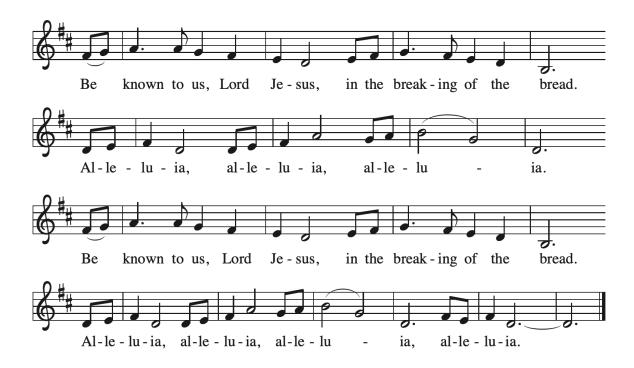
With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

COMMUNION

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome to the table where we meet the risen Lord!



Music accompanies communion.

ELW #755 Jesus Savior, Pilot Me **ELW #764** Have No Fear, Little Flock

PRAYER

After communion, the assembly stands. **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. 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 #544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

DISMISSAL Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia**!

POSTLUDE

Calvary Staff

Members of Calvary, *Witnesses to the Gospel* Synodical Deacon Tanya Lee Behnke, she/her, *Christian Education* Patricia MacKay Bombace, she/her, *Parish Secretary* Seminarian June Bradshaw, she/her, *Field Education Student* The Rev. Zachary Dean, he/him, *Pastor* Paul Elsener, he/him, *Minister of Music* Synodical Deacon Robert Lewis, he/him, *Visitation and Worship* Arianna O'Connell, she/they, *Cantor* Earl Thomas, he/him, *Custodian*

Acknowledgements

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