

Lutheran Church of the  
**Redeemer**  
Gastonia, NC

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 21, 2024**



## **Prelude**

P: Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Welcome/Announcements**

*Please stand as able.*

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth through Christ's resurrection, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: **Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and raised up as beings of the new creation. Therefore, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, in his resurrection. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Quench our thirst in the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Greeting

P: The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

*Please be seated.*

### Children's Message

#### First Reading Acts 4:5-12

<sup>5</sup>The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

## Psalm 23

L: <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: <sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

L: <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: <sup>4</sup>**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.**

L: <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: <sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How 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?

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

<sup>23</sup>And 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. <sup>24</sup>All 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.

*(after the readings)*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able.*

**Alleluia** (green hymnal, pg. 62)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **The Holy Gospel**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John (10:11-18)

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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.”

*(after the reading)*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*(time for reflection)*

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day 492** (green hymnal)

*O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

### **The Nicene Creed**

A: God has made us his children through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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**

*Each petition ends:*

A: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Please be seated.*

**Offering of Financial Gifts** *It is our faithful giving that enables the mission and ministries of this congregation to continue. We will be bringing our offering forward to the altar as a sign of our thankfulness to God.*

**Anthem**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Chancel Choir

*The congregation is invited to join in on the refrain:*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

*Please stand as able.*

**Offertory**

*Doxology*

**Post-Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

**Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution**

**The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Communion** will be by intinction. *You are invited to Holy Communion where Christ has promised to be present offering eternal love and forgiveness. Non-communing children are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you do not wish to partake of the Sacrament, simply remain seated when your row is directed to the altar. We will bring communion to you if that is helpful.*

## Communion Hymns

595 (ELW)

*Jesus Loves Me*

### Jesus Loves Me!

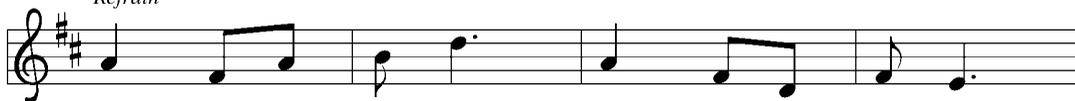


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

#### *Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

797 (ELW)

*Will You Come and Follow Me* (next page)

# Will You Come and Follow Me

## *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

**Chancel Choir**  
 370 (green hymnal)

*In His Time*  
*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

*Please stand as able.*

**Post-Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of Christ our Risen Lord strengthen you in faith and keep you in his grace today and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

**Benediction**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn 650** (blue hymnal)

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

**Dismissal**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

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**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**

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**Visitors: Thank you for worshipping with us. We will have a NEW MEMBER SUNDAY on May 19. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Redeemer, please speak with Pastor Jeff.**

**Our services are live streamed** on the church's website – [www.redeemergastonia.org](http://www.redeemergastonia.org); on our Facebook page, and also on YouTube – search Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Gastonia.

**The Deriter Trip** scheduled for today has been postponed due to the weather forecast. Stay tuned for upcoming events.

**April is Pack-A-Sack month** for CAM. Please pick up a grocery bag from the table in the narthex, fill it with groceries, and return it to the church by the end of the month.

**WELCA** is collecting sanitary napkins through mid-May which will be donated to Gaston County middle schools. In addition to regular sizes, they also need Teen sizes. Please place them in the WELCA bin in the narthex.

**The Seamers** will meet this Saturday, April 27, at 10 a.m.

**Information** for the May newsletter should be submitted to the church office by this Thursday, April 25.

**Needed** – Ivy Nursing Home is having a Prom Night for the residents on May 14. They are looking for used party dresses, evening gowns and men's dress coats. If you have any to donate, please bring to the church by May 5. Put in the Ivy box in the narthex.

**Spark Family Devotionals** are available on the table in the narthex.

**Mark your calendars – May 5**  
***“Lutheran Refresher”* Lunch and Learn Event**

**We'll have a Cinco De Mayo-inspired feast and have some fun reviewing what it means to be Lutheran in this day and age. Look for the Sign Up Genius to help get a head count. You are invited to bring side dishes and desserts to compliment our delicious taco bar!**

**There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, May 5, to update the congregation regarding maintenance costs and repairs. Please plan to attend.**

**Please remember in prayer the following:**

**Members of the congregation:** Effie Rogers, Sidney Craig, Sandi Henderson, Gloria Kaylor, Nancy Reynolds, Louise Rabb, Russell Carey, Jerry & Dana Seagle, Gail Broussard, Joyce Hartsell, Janice Fowler, Bob Gronstal, Betsy Easter

**Granddaughter of:** Margaret Tedder (Jennifer Long)

**Grandson of:** Bob & Janice Gronstal (David Gronstal)

**Brother of:** Brad Alexander (Dana Alexander)

**Sister of:** Linda Barber (Lisa Swilley) Betsy Easter (Betty Easter)  
Jerry Seagle (Kay Sherrill)

**Uncle of:** Jane Bridges (Darrell Posey)

**Aunt of:** Jane Bridges (Pat Bradshaw)

**Nephew of:** Janice Fowler (Chris Markwalder & Family)

**Cousin of:** Jane Bridges (Lester Bradshaw)

**Those who are homebound:** Steve Mack, Ann Lanier, John and Helen Salsburg

**Friends of the congregation:** Pam Aucoin, Lloyd Family, Bruce Zander

*Please let us know when it is time to remove a name from our prayer list so that it remains up-to-date.*