

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Brooklyn Center, MN

As we continue to move through the pandemic, there are some temporary changes in our liturgy, as well as a variety of new protocols in our in-person service. These changes are intended for the sake of the shared health of our community, particularly the most vulnerable among us. As we learn and adapt to this next chapter of our life together, we're grateful for your understanding, grace, and care. For more information about Level 3 of our Covid Response Plan, please see the Covid page on our website, and reach out to the Task Force with any questions. Even with these protocols in place, we give God thanks for the opportunity to gather for worship in new ways, and we trust in the Spirit to guide and enliven us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION + FORGIVENESS

We begin our worship acknowledging that we are sinners. We cling to the ways of death instead of opening our hands to the gift of life, given to us through Jesus' resurrection. Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sin in the presence of God and one another...

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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.**

God, whose mercy is abundant, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May the Holy Spirit empower you in the freedom of this forgiveness, that the love of the risen Christ would guide all that you say and do, and that joy of the risen Christ would go with you. **Amen!**

GATHERING SONG

Maranatha

Worship Team

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

Come let us go to the house of the Lord
The Kingdom of God in the city of man
A place for all races
A place where Your graces dwell in our hearts
In the works of our hands

Chorus

Come again
Feed Your lambs
We are Your hands

And now we see as in a mirror
Reflections of You of what is to come
A glorious cloud
A beauty profound in the widow
The orphan the lame and the poor

Chorus (2x)

We are a broken world oh Lord
Not worthy for the call to love
We're healed by grace through faith in You
A people truly set apart
We are a broken world oh Lord
Not worthy to be set apart
We die unto our selfish ways
And go unto Your sacred heart

Chorus (2x)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together:

A: O God, good shepherd of the sheep, you meet us in our fear when we walk in life's valleys. Meet us now--accompany us with your presence, surround us with your love, and fill us with good courage as we seek to live together as your beloved flock. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside 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.

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.

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

1 John 3:16-24

⁶We 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC Let Your Faith Be Stronger Than Your Fear

Mark Trease

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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

Pastor Ali Tranvik

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Not Afraid

ELW 388

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And always with you.

Let's share a sign of that peace with one another.

If you're worshipping in-person, you're invited to stand up, remain in your pews, and turn to neighbors near you, offering a physically distant sign of peace: a wave, nod or bow, peace sign, or crossing arms over the chest as a symbol of an embrace. If you're worshipping on Zoom, you're invited to turn on your video and wave or give a peace sign to others.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

If you're worshipping with us in-person, please note that offering plates will not be passed around at this time. You are welcome to drop off offering before or after the services. If you're worshipping with us virtually, we invite you to make an offering by sending a check to the church or by visiting our secure online giving page which can be found at the bottom of our home page: www.crossofglory.us.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

I Am Not Alone

Worship Team

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

When I walk through deep waters
I know that You will be with me
When I'm standing in the fire
I will not be overcome
Through the valley of the shadow
I will not fear

I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me

In the midst of deep sorrow
I see Your light is breaking through
The dark of night will not overtake me
I am pressing into You
Lord You fight my ev'ry battle
And I will not fear

You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
(REPEAT)

You're my strength You're my defender
You're my refuge in the storm
Through these trials You've always been faithful
You bring healing to my soul

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation... Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Drawn together as one body by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

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.

BLESSING

May the risen One fill you with life, nurture your faith, deepen your love, and ✠ grant you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN The King of Love My Shepherd Is verses 1, 4, 5 and 6 ELW 502

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

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| <p>1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.</p> <p>5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!</p> | <p>4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.</p> <p>6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever</p> |
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**

If you're worshipping in-person, please join us for a brief time of fellowship following today's service outdoors in the parking lot. In the case of bad weather, the Fellowship Hall will remain available for masked and distanced fellowship.

If you're worshipping with us on Zoom, you are welcome to stick around for Virtual Coffee Hour. This time will not be structured as it has been in recent months. Simply stay for fellowship and conversation for as long as you'd like!

POSTLUDE

MUSIC CREDITS

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Lead Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik
Pianist, vocalist, worship team director: Mark Trease
Vocalist, choir director: Keith Williams
Lector: Julie Aulwes
Technical Team: Ryan Bailey, Mike Edstrom, Erik Haugland, Isak Tranvik
Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

<p style="text-align: center;">Congregational Support as of 3/31/2021 Annual Budget: \$230,000.00 Year to Date Budgeted: \$57,800.03 Year to Date Received: \$71,904.52 Difference: \$14,104.49</p>
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This week, the CAPI mutual aid site located in Cross of Glory's Fellowship Hall will be open for emergency supply collection and distribution on Wednesday (4/21) and Friday (4/23) afternoons from 12-5 pm. You are welcome to drop off supplies or sign up for a worker shift during that time using the sign-up link posted to our facebook page. We will be reassessing needs after this week. Please see our facebook page and website for further updates.
- Visit the www.crossofglory.us to view the Service of Prayer and Lament that took place last Sunday. Visit www.healingourcity.org to join together with interfaith neighbors across the city for 20 minutes of virtual prayer for our every morning at 8 am.
- Cross of Glory is currently offering both in-person and virtual worship options. You are welcome to worship with us however you feel most comfortable! Given the recent spike in Covid cases in our area, the Covid Task Force is encouraging those who can meaningfully worship and gather virtually to do so.
- Join us for Table Talks, our monthly Adult Ed series, this Sunday 4/25 at 11 am via Zoom (same login info used for worship). This month's topic is Faith + Imagination. Join us as we imagine together how God might be calling us to be the church in this moment. To "set the table" for our talk, please read Acts 2:1-21 in advance. Reach out to Pastor Ali with any questions.

- If you're interested in joining with other Cross of Glory members, students at Progeny, and other Brooklyn Center neighbors for community gardening this spring & summer in the plots in our church's backyard, please contact Pastor Ali.
- Liturgy means "the work of the people." We're grateful for all the ways our shared work helps shape our weekly worship. If you're interested in serving as an usher, greeter, reader, musician, or tech support, please contact the church office.
- Please reach out to Pastor Ali with announcements or pastoral care concerns by email (atranvik@crossofglory.us) or phone (763-533-8602).