

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • APRIL 21, 2024



Cross Lutheran Church 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109 www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329 *Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor*

Preaching/Presiding:

Pastor Scott Simmons

Director of Music: Kenneth Kusiak

Lay Minister:

4/21 Jamie Gudknecht 4/28 Dave Olson

Assisting Minister:

4/21 Janice Neenan 4/28 Jamie Gudknecht

Cantor:

4/21 Pastor Scott 4/28 Duane Gudknecht

Ushers:

4/21 Matt Wickoren and Sheree Kieffer 4/28 Sharon Crist and Matt Wickoren

Acolyte:

4/21 Henry Mizinski 4/28 Kirby Doughty Crist

Livestream Producer: Katie Tomek

Altar Guild:

April: LuAnn Lund and Carolyn Border

Coffee:

4/21 Diana Border and Bonnie Dischinger 4/28 Dottie Bingman and Mary Vatne

If you are interested in serving coffee following worship, please sign-up on the bulletin board between the narthex and the kitchen.

Flowers on the Table

today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Gene Bingman by his wife Dottie.



The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.



*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion



If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship, sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the narthex, or contact the office.

The Liturgy of Holy Communion, which we celebrate every Sunday, is the principal form of Lutheran worship. Here, the Holv Spirit gathers us around the means of grace - the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

The basic pattern of this liturgy-gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways our worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the aospel, into the life of the one triune God.

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. *Refrain* Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain* For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Messiah, Jesus, your followers established churches in communities near and far. Take us outside of ourselves and teach us to give away what you have given to us. Show us how to witness to your presence in places near and far. Amen. We gather around the **WORD** in reading, preaching, and song, as we enter into the steadfast love of God as proclaimed through Holy Scripture.

For Lutherans, the Gospel of Christ—the Good News of what God has done in Jesus —is at the heart of our public witness and proclamation.

This Good News is received through the Gospel accounts of the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, yes, but also in the writings of Paul, John, and Peter: in the witnesses of the Old Testament prophets; the memories of the people of Israel; and through the poetry and prose of Psalms. Ecclesiastes. Proverbs and others. The Gospel is truly the Good News of Christ proclaimed from Genesis to Revelation. whenever and however it points to God's loving, redeeming, and creative power in, with. and through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. Good News indeed.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Appair Figs the stead fast look as sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Actual and the very place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no mend to speak about it. For they report

about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and multiple for and to wait for his Son from weaven, whom he raped from the state of sur who rescues us from the coming wrath.

SPONSIV	PONSIVE PSALM			nksbernering Psalm 16				Simmo		
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to the clouds. to the clouds. to the clouds. to the LORD, "You are my Lord; take refuge. T have no good apart from you." to the LORD, "You are my Lord; T have no good apart from you." to the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones the noble ones

I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand; I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol or let you faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy in your right hand are pleasures

forevermore.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 17: 1-9

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*ACCLAMATION Steadfast Love pg. 189 σ 0 Let your stead-fast love Lord. come to us, O 0 Let your stead-fast love come to us, Lord. you prom - ised; Save us as we will trust your word. Let your stead-fast love 0 come to us, Lord.

*GOOD NEWS

Mark 13:9-11

The Gospel according to Mark... Glory to you, O Lord.

"As for yourselves, beware, for they will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

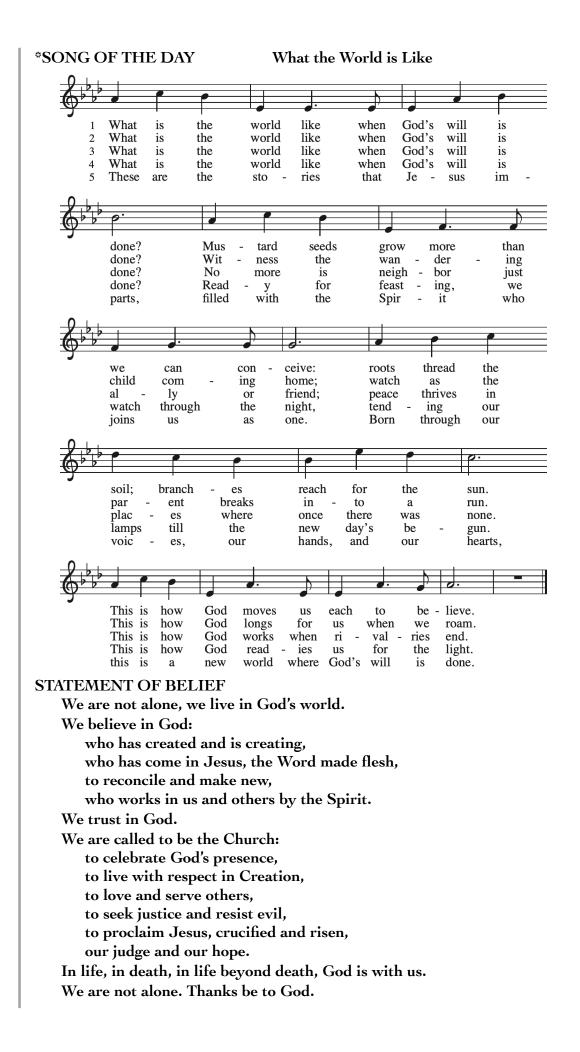
SERMON

PREACHING SCRIPTURES

As we continue through this year of Mark, here are the main biblical texts for the coming weeks:

April 21. Church at Thessalonica.

Acts 17:1-9 1 Thess. 1:1-10 Mark 13:9-11 April 28. Church at Corinth. Acts 18:1-4 1 Cor. 1:10-18 Mark 9:34-35 May 5. Faith, Hope, and Love 1 Cor. 13:1-3 Mark 12:28-31 Mav 12. Death Swallowed in Life 1 Cor 15:1-26. 51- 57 Mark 12:26-27a



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you always. And also with you.

Please share a covid-friendly sign of peace with those around you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Consolation No. 1

Franz Liszt

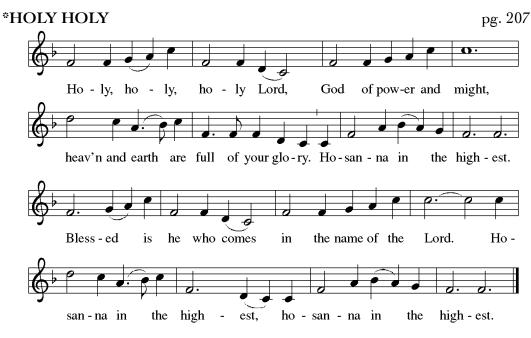
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*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 our thanks and praise

*PREFACE



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for: Margo, Roman Joseph, Marya, Marilee, Sherry, Ray and Clara, Dawn, Brady, Richard, Andrew, Judy, Sheree, Marv, Dottie, Alicia, Debbie, BettyLu, Greg, Kennedee, Kenny, Robin, Hailey, Jerrod, and Kelly.

We offer ongoing prayers for the families of Bud Nasby, Allen Stack, Dave Davidson and Ellie Scot-Meyer.

If you have a name to add or remove from this prayer list, please contact Pastor Scott or Katie Tomek, Admin. Assistant.

OFFERING

We bring our offerings to God with grateful hearts, in confidence they will be used to support the work of the church both here and throughout the world.

In ELCA liturgy, the Offering is set within the context of the Meal, for it is here that we set the table with the fruits of our hands— financial offerings, yes, but also bread and wine which are products of human effort and gifts of our gracious God. It is from this table of blessing that God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

In Holy Communion,

we receive the gift of Christ's presence in bread and wine (the body and blood of Jesus) through the holy promise that this gift is "for you." All who desire to receive Christ's presence in, with, and through the wine and the bread are invited to this table.

We remember God's faithfulness to God's people and God's purposes.

All are invited to proclaim the words of institution along with the presiding pastor.

Today we practice continuous communion using a pouring chalice as a common cup. Ushers will invite you to proceed up the aisle towards the pastor and the bread. Please offer your cupped hands to receive the bread.

Proceed to the cupbearer, picking up an empty cup from the tray. Hold out your cup for the lay minister to fill from the common pouring chalice.

*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, in his death, resurrection and ascension, opened his arms to all, inviting all believers to participate in the sacred story, that...

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

*PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

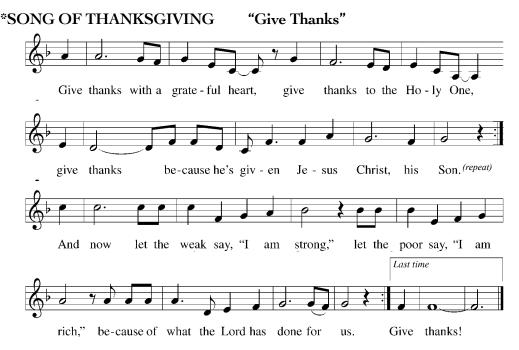
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION



Communion Songs: 483 - Here is Bread; 611 - I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

***COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



Please recycle your cup in the basket provided and return via the side aisle.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell the pastor when you approach to receive the bread. Pre-filled grape juice cups are available. Please ask your server.

Children who are not yet communing and others wishing not to commune may approach the pastor for a blessing. Please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

If you are not comfortable with coming forward for communion due to health concerns, individual communion sets are available at the sanctuary entrance. Please indicate to the usher if you would like one.

ANOINTING After

communing, you may receive prayer and anointing with oil from the assisting minister stationed in the narthex.

The Holy Spirit **SENDS** us, restored and refreshed in the Word and the Meal, to share the Good News.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ. Thanks Be To God.

POSTLUDE

And Can It Be

arr. Mark Hayes

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for coffee and fellowship.

ADULT EDUCATION resumes today! Join us as we take a look back at our previous Listening to God sessions and explore together where the Holy Spirit might be calling us into God's preferred future.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Cross Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6pm. All experiences and backgrounds are welcome. Choir will be singing two times per month. Participation is encouraged even if you can't be at every service! If you have questions, please contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org.

JOHN GLENN LAUNCHING PAD

The donation item for April is socks. There is also an ongoing need for backpacks and sweatpants.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Join us Thursdays in the community room as we explore the week's teaching passages. All are welcome! It is always a lively time.

BLOOD DRIVE Sign up for the May 2nd Red Cross Blood Drive at Cross. If you would like to donate, go to the American Red Cross website to register. If you have questions, please see Sylvia Graham. Thanks so much!

JOHN GLENN COMMMUNITY MARKET

The April John Glenn Community market was great! We had about 10 very large families, one with 10 members. Here's who we helped serve:

Households: 88 Total Persons: 492 JG Students: 88 Other kids: 144 Seniors: 16 Total Adults: 243 New Families: 13 Pounds of food : 4,410 (2,149 from fresh & frozen) Volunteer Hours: 104 (60 Cross Lutheran, 44 JG with 40 of those hours being students)

The last market of this school year will be on May 15th.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota, 55109 www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329 Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org 612-859-1134 Katie Tomek, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, April 21 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:00am-12:00pm Adult Ed 1:00-5:00pm Promesa De Dios 5:00-9:00pm Ebenezer Elim Monday, April 22 Office Closed 7:00-9:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia **Tuesday, April 23** 1:00-5:30pm Pastor Scott office by appt 7:00-9:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Wednesday, April 24 1:00-6:00pm Pastor Scott office by appt 7:00-9:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Thursday, April 25 8:00am-5:00pm Katie Tomek office 10:30-11:30am Bible Study in Comm Rm 11:30am-2:30pm Pastor Scott office by appt 3:00 - 4:00pm Worship @ The Shores 6:00-7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00-9:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Friday, April 26 1:00-4:00pm Pastor Scott office by appt 7:00pm - 10:00pm Ebenezer Elim Saturday, April 27 9:00am - 1:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia 1:30pm - 4:30pm Cross Organ Practice 5:00 - 7:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Sunday, April 28 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:00am-12:00pm Adult Ed 1:00 - 5:00pm Promesa De Dios 5:00 - 9:00pm Ebenezer Elim