

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • APRIL 21, 2024

CROSS

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.

GATHERING

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

***PRELUDE** Blessed Assurance arr. Michael Hassell

***GATHERING HYMN** All Are Welcome Dakota Road




All are wel - come, friend and stran - ger at the ban - quet of the Sav - ior.



All are wel - come. All are wel - come here.



From the wo - man who comes cry - ing,
From the ones who feel for - got - ten,
Go in - to the streets and cit - ies,



leav - ing tears at Je - sus' feet, to the man who
those who sense their and place is gone, to the ones who
to the farms and fam - i - lies, tell a - bout the



knows the right way but can - not see.
live in hun - ger, here you be - long.
splen - did ta - ble, God's mer - cy.

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**



Leader: Oh peo - ple of God, the Lord be with you. **All:** And may the Lord



be with you too. **Leader:** The Spir - it calls us to re - mem - ber



All: Oh Lord we lift our hearts to you. **All:** We fail to love you with our
You bid us come out from the



whole hearts or love our neigh - bors as we should. And so we're
sha - dows in - to the light by which we see Our sins for



ask - ing for for - give - ness Oh set us free and make us good.
give - en and for - got - ten for Jes - sus' sake we're clear and free

***GREETING**

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.**

***KYRIE**

Kyrie We Pray

Simmons

1
Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we pray

5
Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we

8
pray let there be peace let there be life let there be
pray for all the sighing for all the starving for all the
pray we trust your promise we crave your presence we need for-

11
love, let us have faith no more be war, no more be
aching we lift our prayer for all the crying for all the
givenness Lord, hear our prayer we trust your power we crave your

14
death, no more be hate, let us have faith
fearing for all the lonely we lift our prayer
blessing we need re-storing Lord, hear our prayer

***SONG OF PRAISE**

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

CANTOR:

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.**

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 Holy 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 gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

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 Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need 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 true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 16

Simmons

Your steadfast love O Lord reaches the
heavens, Your faithfulness,
to the clouds.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."
As for the holy ones in the land,
they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.
The LORD is my chosen portion
and my cup; you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen
for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

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 your 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

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O 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

May 12. Death Swallowed in Life

1 Cor 15:1-26, 51- 57

Mark 12:26-27a

*SONG OF THE DAY

What the World is Like



1 What is the world like when God's will is
 2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Lord have mer- cy, Christ have mer- cy, Lord have mer- cy, hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

*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

*HOLY HOLY

pg. 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 SONG

"O Lamb of God"

p. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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

***COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING "Give Thanks"**



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,



give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son. *(repeat)*



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG**

"Go, Make Disciples"

ELW 540



"Go, make dis-ci-ples, bap-tiz-ing them, teach-ing them.



Go, make dis-ci-ples, for I am with you till the end of time.



Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.



Go, be a cit-y on a hill, so all can see that you're



serv-ing me. Go, make dis-ci-ples."

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

And Can It Be

arr. Mark Hayes

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.*

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 COMMUNITY 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.

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

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