

Sunday, April 21, 2024

**The good shepherd
lays down his life
for the sheep.**



***Christ's Lutheran Church
Murrysville, Pennsylvania***

“A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become”



Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals to sing the hymns. Our Sunday morning service is livestreamed on YouTube and your image may appear.

Communion - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. You can either kneel or remain standing when you come to the altar. We offer both wheat and gluten-free wafers, and both wine and grape juice. If you would like to receive grape juice, please take a glass from the tray that has already been filled when you come forward. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let Pastor Wayne know when he gives you the bread.

Children are always welcome! Please feel free to walk around in the rear area of our worship space if your child becomes restless. Rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. You can find cloth bags containing activities for children aged 3 and older in the back of our worship space. We ask you to please return the cloth bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates while you are worshipping) at the end of today's service.

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

Office: 412-795-1212

Church Office email: office@christsmurrysville.org

Website: www.christsmurrysville.org

App: [Christ's Lutheran \(ELCA\)](#)

Good Shepherd Sunday ***The 4th Sunday of Easter***

(Please take a moment to silence your electronic devices)

PRELUDE

"Pastorale"

Herbert Sumsion

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS

P: The beauty of the Creator inspires us, the grace of the Good Shepherd be with us, and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

C: May it be so!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Look! Here is water!

What is to prevent us from giving thanks for baptism?

Here is water. Rushing water. Surging water.

Pounding, crashing surf of water. Foaming waters to wash us clean, to scrub away the guilt, the burden that clings, to wipe away the grime of archived fear.

Blessed be water.

C: We give you thanks, Creator God, for sea and ocean, tides and waves.

P: Here is water. Tumbling, water. Streaming water.

Free-flowing-shower-of-water-of-grace water.

Bubbling fount to soothe our hearts, balm for the scars of angry division, salve for the wounds of ignorant pride.

Blessed be the water.

C: We give you thanks, creative Word, for rain and snow, storm and mist.

P: Here is water. Clear water. Cool water.

Quench-the-thirst-of-our-soul water.

Still waters to restore our spirits, source of hope, refreshment for the journey toward the fold, sparkling with the promise of new life.

Blessed be the water.

C: We give you thanks, creating Spirit, for stream and pool, spring and lake.

P: Here is water, through which God created and continues to create.

In the beginning, weaving with the Breath of life every living being; throughout history, a gateway for divine deliverance; in every moment, remembering the mystery of life, bounding all of creation as one. We give you thanks, blessed Creator, for the gift of life, for this water without which life would cease, for the gift of baptism, through which these waters birth us again into your promise of newness, wholeness, and oneness. Blessed be Creator God, creative + Word, creating Spirit. Blessed be each soul here and not here, one people, one with all that is. Blessed be this water that births us, renews us, and welcomes us home.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!"

ELW #369

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

This Is the Feast of Victory



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Based on Revelation 5, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. by Augsburg Fortress
Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Irregular with refrain; Richard Hillert, 1923–2010, © 1975, 1988, Richard Hillert

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: ACTS 4:5-12

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name

did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:16-24

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but indeed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

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

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW #789

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: 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.

P: Lord in your mercy, (*after each petition*)

C: Hear our prayer.

TODAY, WE ARE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING

Jean Bottorf, John Colosmo, Debbie Faust, Steve Gebhard, Bob Gustafson, Ronald "Gus" Gustafson, Peggy Henry, Oren Keibler, Janice Matthews, Lara Eddy McClain, Charlie Meade, Romaine Miller, Lorri Nixon, Linda O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Rizzo, Andrea Schwartz Nutter, Barbara Salenske, Sandy Tambellini

Praying for Our Mission Partners & Friends:

Rachel Kitzke

Joseph, Jamie, Landon, and Sierra Koteles

Katie, Olivia, and Hazel Kozak

Irmgard Kuuskler



P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING to Support God's Work in Our Church and Beyond

This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do, is an offering to God.

*You can scan the code to download and use our new app [**Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)**] to send your offering, place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service, or send your offering to the church by mailing it to: **Christ's Lutheran Church, 5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668***

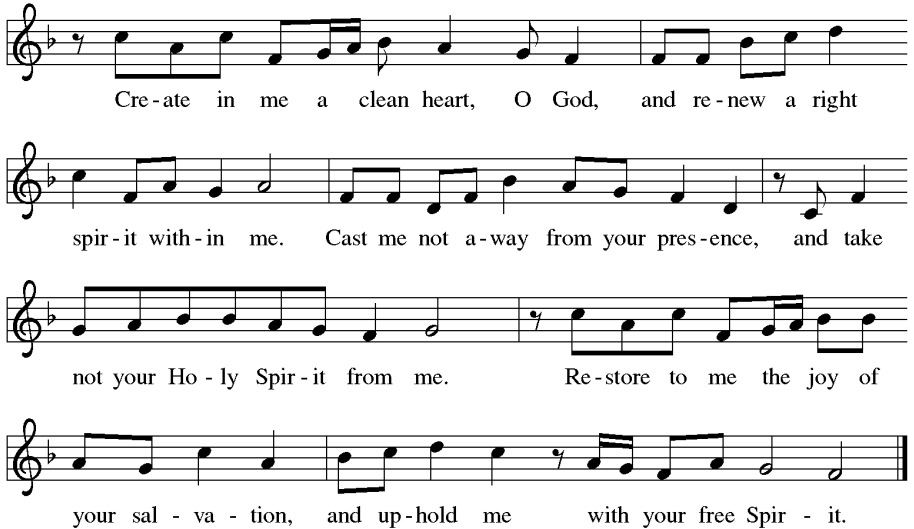


OFFERTORY

"Pastorale"

Alec Rowley

CREATE IN ME



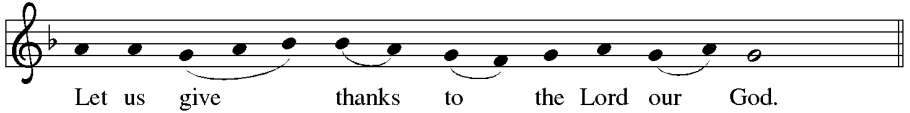
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Whatever we ask, in accordance with your will, we receive and our cup overflows. Confident in divine abundance and humbly eager to turn from covetous greed, we return what we have received for the Shepherd's work, that green pastures and safe folds will welcome any who live in fear; that peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts, that a voice of welcome will be heard at each gate; that a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst; and all may safely graze. In the name of the One who is our comfort.

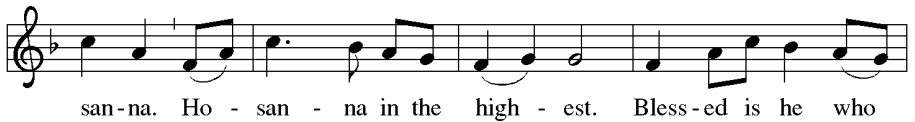
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . (*concluding*)
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION *(please be seated)*

(When Communion is finished, please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: Little children, sheep of the Good Shepherd: As we journey toward the fold, we travel through the valley of shadow, growing in grace, becoming a blessing. Baptismal wells restore our souls, a rich feast is spread by divine abundance, and divisions end as our cup overflows.

C: Amen.

“AARON’S BLESSING”

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

May the Lord bless and keep you forever.

May the Lord always be by your side.

**May the Lord make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you ev’ry day.**

May the Lord give you peace on your journey.

May God’s love and peace fill your heart.

May the Lord bless and keep you forever.

May the Lord always be by your side.

SENDING HYMN

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

ELW #384

THE DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Journey gently on this planet's green pasture.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary"

Charles Villiers-Stanford

Pastor

Rev. Wayne G. Gillespie

Email: revwaynegillespie@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Steven J. Myers

Organist

Kevin Clemens



We appreciate the continued commitment of our Readers, Worship Assistants, Reconcilers, Tech Team, Ushers, and many others who make our worship services happen. You can volunteer by signing up on our app by clicking on Weekend Worship Teams or by contacting the church office. **Thank you for making our Weekend Worship services possible**

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP

– immediately following
today's worship service.



Worship



Join us on Saturday, April 27th (Rain Date May 4th) at 9:00 am to spruce up the outside of our beautiful church property. Weeding and edging flower beds, cutting off dead branches, spreading mulch, and general yard clean up.

Many hands make light work, and your hands can help make a big difference! Please bring gloves and garden tools. Lunch and Fellowship will follow! Look for the sign-up sheet in the entryway or email the church office at office@christsmurrysville.org Please sign up by April 21st. Thank you for helping out!

Come join us for a night of Music, Entertainment, and Fellowship at Christ's Lutheran Church featuring:

Ring Pittsburgh, Friday May 3, 2024 at 7:30pm



Ring Pittsburgh is a community handbell choir founded in 2016 by James Rosetti, who serves as Music and Artistic Director. This ensemble of experienced musicians uses their unique musical art form to entertain and educate audiences across the Pittsburgh area. Please join us for an evening of Fun and Fellowship. For more information visit: www.ringpittsburgh.org



ATTENTION 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

High School Graduation is an important and exciting time. We would like to recognize the students who will be graduating in 2024, as they move on with their future opportunities. Please let us know if you have a student who will be graduating this year. A photo and a summary of your graduate's plans and activities/interests can be submitted to the church office at office@christsmurrysville.org. The information will be posted on our church bulletin board. We're looking forward to congratulating these students!

SAVE THE DATES:

**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

JUNE 24-27!

SEE YOU THERE!!!



CLC ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE:

Saturday June 1 ~ 8 am to 2 pm

This year's flea market is rapidly approaching, so we hope you will keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning! You may drop off your items beginning Thursday, May 23rd and Friday, May 24th during church office hours, 10 am to 3 pm, and Saturday May 25th and Sunday May 26th when you come to worship services. Tuesday, May 28th through Thursday, May 30th, you may drop off items from 9:15 am to 2 pm and from 6 to 8 pm. We will not be accepting items on Friday, May 31st, which will be strictly a workday for our volunteers.

WEEKLY CALENDAR
April 21, 2024 – April 27, 2024

Sunday 4/21

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
7:30 pm

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Children & Adult Sunday School
Sunday Morning Worship
Fellowship following Worship
Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Monday 4/22

5:30 pm
8:00 pm

GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Kindermusik
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesday 4/23

9:30 am
5:30 pm

PRAY FOR OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Election Day
Kindermusik
Kindermusik

Wednesday 4/24

9:30 am
5:30 pm

PRAY FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Kindermusik
Kindermusik

Thursday 4/25

9:30 am

PRAY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Kindermusik

Friday 4/26

PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES - EVANGELISTS

Saturday 4/27

9:00 am -12 pm
6:00 pm

OUR CONGREGATION AS WE WORSHIP

CLC Workday
Saturday Evening Worship

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