



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2024
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

P Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed!**

Musical Prelude

“A Mighty Fortress” by John Leavitt

Eric Dickey

Hymn

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!”

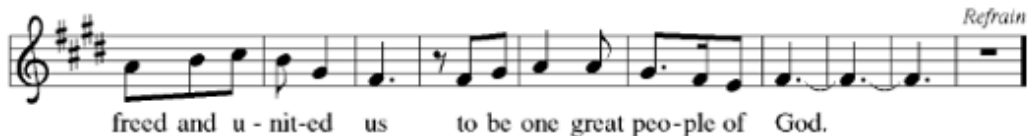
ELW 369

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.**

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!
I Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



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. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: ACTS 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are

asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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.

¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

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

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: 1 John: 3:16-24

¹⁶We 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.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

Congregation:

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



The Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according... **C** **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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C** **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

“Where the Buck Stops”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

*“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
VS 3 low voices VS 4 high voices*

ELW 502

Affirmation of Baptism

P Those affirming their baptisms to become members of our congregation and their sponsors, are invited to come forward.

These persons have come to us from other congregations, and they desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

Sisters and brothers, we rejoice to receive you, members already of the one holy catholic and apostolic church into our fellowship in the Gospel.

P Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, and all the congregation: in Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God’s people, you have learned from his Word God’s loving purpose for you and all creation. You continue to be nourished at his holy table

and are called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So therefore, trusting in the promises of God made to you in your own baptism, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in his Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for peace and justice in all the earth? If so, I ask you to respond, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ, to receive these new members of our church family as your own sisters and brothers and as God's beloved, to rejoice with them in their joy, and to weep with them in their sorrows as part of the one body of Christ, and to encourage these new members in living out the covenant God has made with them in baptism?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray:

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen**

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

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.

A brief silence.

AM Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Frank O’Konski, Tristian Kimmey, Duncan Laverie, Carol Golembiewski, Holli Blackburn, Iris Rockwell, Kim Mockensturm, Larry Geer, Troy Bernhard,**

Kevin Stiles, Susie Donnal, Harold Shoup Jr... and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. We remember our beloved who have died before us, *especially Craig Burdo and Pat Campbell.* Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day as we remember and share their love, and comfort those who mourn. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A "gluten-free" host option is available upon request as well.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with
you. Lift up your hearts. We
lift them to the Lord. *r. repeat.* Let us give
thanks to the Lord our God. It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Presider: *Congregation:*

Congregation:

**The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....

HOLY

Congregation:

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is in 6/8 time. The second staff changes to 3/8 time. The third staff is in 6/8 time. The fourth staff is in 6/8 time. The fifth staff is in 6/8 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The 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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **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.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“The Trumpet’s Sound, the Angels Sing”

ELW 531

Dismissal

AM Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

He Is Risen! Welcome to the Easter Season! The presence of the Risen Jesus welcomes us every Sunday we gather in the Lord’s house! We are glad you are here! May the good news of life, hope, peace, and joy bless you and yours! Thanks for choosing to worship with Community of Christ!

Join US!! Each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live!!! Don’t forget to BRING a FRIEND!!!

Today we WELCOMED new members to our Church Family! *Dave and Jennifer Braun, Kathy Heckler, Rebecca Jaessing, Judy Mock, Phil and Sandi Whaley!* We are excited to have you as a part of our church family!

May Newsletter! The May Newsletter will be soon upon us! Please submit any articles, pictures, upcoming news, etc. **no later than Wednesday, April 24.**

Coming up on Sunday, April 28, between services, we'll have a representative from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who will be able to share more about ways that Thrivent members can direct resources for use here at Community of Christ. Thrivent members can direct money to a recipient of their choice through a program called "Thrivent Choice Dollars," and that can be a way to support Community of Christ additionally beyond our regular giving. We can also apply for monies in micro-grant style projects through "Thrivent Action Teams" (as we did recently for fleece for the Bed Build tie blankets) to be used in specific one-time events or projects, and our Thrivent presenter will share more about how to make the most of these opportunities. We'll also have light refreshments throughout the presentation in the fellowship hall, starting at 9:00 a.m. Join us there!



Altar
Flowers
Ministry Opportunity

**Altar Flowers are given by Susan and Neil Raymond
in celebration of Alex & Paige Raymond, 1st
Anniversary! 💙**

Adult Forum in April and May 2024: Scenes from a Movement

Throughout the weeks of Eastertide, our first lessons in worship each Sunday will be stories from the Book of Acts, which chronicles the early church and the spread of the first followers of Jesus into the world. And yet, many of us are not very familiar with this part of the Bible or the meaning it holds for our lives today as the church. So, join us in the Adult Forum for the spring to take a closer look at these stories and the way the Christian community developed from a fearful band of former fishermen and tax collectors to a budding movement across the Roman Empire, and now to the whole world. Join us for “Scenes from a Movement: Stories from Acts” this April and May at 9:00 a.m. in the library for our Sunday morning Adult Forum class! Everybody is welcome!

April Ladies Lunch

Where: Sunset Bistro, Bowling Green OH

When: April 26, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Becky will be at a wedding, so I am your contact person for the first Ladies’ Lunch in 2024. Please sign up for the luncheon at the kiosk. If you have questions or want to share a ride, let me know. Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444. **Save these dates** for the rest of the Ladies’ Lunches: May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, and October 25.

Piano Concert here at Community of Christ!

Bryce Jennings will be performing here at Community of Christ on **Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m.** Bryce is an alumnus of Maumee HS and knows our very own Eric Dickey! Bryce shared with me; “I was in good company during my high school days! Eric was one of my initial influences and exposures to the jazz music world! When he would come accompany us for our classes, I couldn’t fathom the sounds he was producing from the keys! I’m beyond excited to be back!” Please join us and invite a friend! To learn more about Bryce, please see his bio on the kiosk! Program Order: 1. Amazing Grace 2. Tis so Sweet 3. My Jesus, I Love Thee 4. Great is Thy Faithfulness 5. Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand 6. Medley, It is Well/How Great Thou Art 7. Holy Holy Holy 8. Jesus Paid it All 9. I Surrender All 10. Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus 11. The Benediction

THANK YOU! A big big Thank You to the entire congregation for sharing all of our time and talents for the 50th Anniversary Bed Build Project! We exceeded our goal with 50 beds made on a cool Saturday morning. We had tons of blankets, quilts, sheets, pillows, and all the money for the materials. We had a wonderful time building and fellowship celebrating together with a meal afterward. Thank you again to those who participated and helped organize. You can check out Lets Build online for more pics and details of how they help kids in our area, as well as our Facebook page for our pics. Many hands make light work! Thanks, Jeff

**Join us on Facebook Live at
10:00 a.m.**

or

in person!

Worship & Sacrament

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

AA Meeting

Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Midweek Bible Study

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Caregivers Support Meeting

First Monday of every month

6:30 p.m.

Clean & Feed Weekend

4th Sunday of Every Month

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday, April 2 - May 14
Choir Practice
April 24 & May 1
Thursday Bible Study
April 25, 1:00 p.m.
Piano Concert
Sunday, April 28

Worship Services

Available on the net

at

www.commofchrist.org



To order your commemorative recording, please use one of the special envelopes available in the Gathering Space. We would appreciate your donations in the form of cash or check, made out to the Community of Christ. You may submit your orders either at the office or in the offering plate. Thank you!

Here are the available options:



- DVD that includes both music and video: A donation of \$25.



- CD that includes music only: A donation of \$20.



- Flash Drive with both music & video: A donation of \$25.

Please note that you must provide the flash drive.



- Flash Drive with music only: A donation of \$20.
- Please note that you must provide the flash drive.



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question,

take notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!