



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
ascensionlutheranchurch.org

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome! *Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or this has been your faith community for many years, we welcome you to worship.*

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

A few notes on how we worship together:

During the Prayers of People, you are welcome to voice your prayers out loud or you may fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. The yellow prayer sheets will be collected by the usher after the sermon. Prayer requests will be voiced by the Pastor and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.

We are in a season of rejoicing! You are invited to take an egg-shaker or a scarf for worship. Waive it in the air when you hear the "alleluia" proclaimed!

Cover Image: Latimore, Kelly. Good Shepherd, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57121> [retrieved April 17, 2024]. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>.

Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)

*The flowers above the altar are given by the Iacono family
in honor of Juliette's 9th Birthday*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All children are invited to join our Pastor at the baptismal font.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN | CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY, ALLELUIA!

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
 Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE | THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING | ACTS 4:5-12

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is

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

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

- R** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 23 *Prayed together*

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though 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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING | 1 JOHN 3:16-24

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And 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. All 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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

GOSPEL | JOHN 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

SERMON

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

HYMN OF THE DAY | THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984
Arr. © Oxford University Press.

APOSTLES CREED

P Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C 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 to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of risen Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

CHORAL ANTHEM | THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME

by William and Gloria Gaither

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give. Thank you for your gifts.

OFFERING HYMN | PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of chords and single notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, also containing chords and single notes. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

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.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us friends and families
busy streets for young and old,
the life of an earthly city
fulfilled in your city to come.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P We thank you, loving God,
 because, when we turned away,
 you sent Jesus, your Son.
 He gave his life on the cross
 and opened his arms to all.

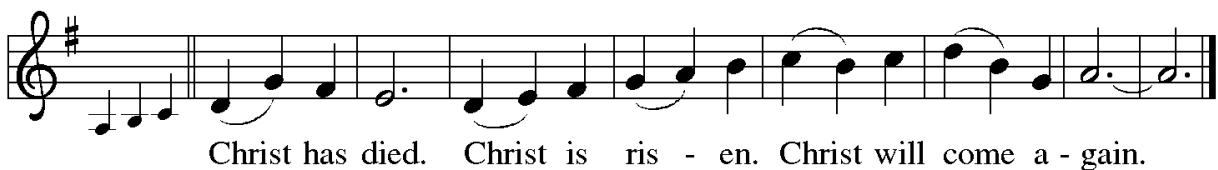
On the night before he died,
 when darkness had fallen,
 Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,
 and shared it with his disciples, saying:
 'Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.
 Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
 gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

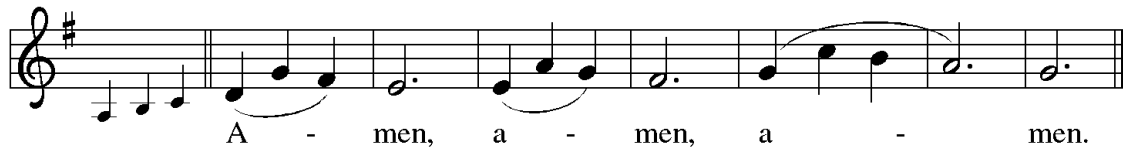
'This cup is the new testament in my blood,
poured out for you and for all people,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

And so, O God, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate Jesus's love, his death, his risen life,
proclaiming triumphantly:



P As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit.
Fill us with your blessing and grace,
Free us from our sins,
Form us to be your people.

Help us, O God, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
today and forever:



LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. 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.

COMMUNION

The gifts of God belong to you, the people of God. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.

Communion is celebrated by intinction. Extend your open palms to receive the bread, then dip the bread into either the red wine or white grape juice in the divided chalice. If you desire gluten-free bread, please tell the pastor. If you require Holy Communion brought to your seat, please inform an usher.

You may also come forward to the Table with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing from the pastor.

AGNUS DEI

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, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION | Eat this Bread (Taizé)

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
 OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Shepherd 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.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

BLESSING

God go before you to guide you.
God go behind you to protect you.
God go beneath you to support you.
God go beside you to befriend you.
Be not afraid.
And let the blessing of Almighty God:
✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Descend on you, settle in around you
And make its home in you.
Be not afraid.
Go in peace.
Alleluia and Amen.

SENDING HYMN | GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain,

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

DISMISSAL

AM Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thank you to our volunteers:

Assisting Minister	Jillian Rauh
Reader	Tony Eith
Altar Service	Amy Loux
Usher	Lisa Murphy
Counters	Blaine Orth
	Sue Baumgarten
Greeter	Maryjane Hagan
	Doreen Bourbon
Fellowship.....	Jillian Rauh
Tech	John Carducci
	Tony Eith

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



Connect with Ascension

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the newsletter, and event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com

Save the Date: Mortgage Burning Party – Thursday, May 9

Join us on the Feast Day of Ascension, May 9, from 6PM to 8PM as we celebrate the milestone of becoming debt-free!

Listening Circle Focused on Outreach – After Worship on April 28

The last of our three listening circle opportunities will take place after worship on Sunday, April 28th. All are welcome to attend as we dream about how to serve our community together.

Altar Flower Donations

There is an opportunity for you to donate flowers for the altar at Ascension and to designate the flowers. You may designate the flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone. There is a sign up posted in the Narthex. You may send your payment of \$30 to the Church at 900 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown, PA 18940. Make your check payable to: "Ascension Lutheran Church" and put "Altar Flowers" in the memo line.

You may also place your payment in the offering plate.



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.
Pr. Kayla is available by appointment Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Learn more about our community at ascensionlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown