

MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Sunday, April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-1188
www.messiahsi.org

GATHERING

NOTE: Congregational Responses in Bold Type

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community. **ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US** in the Fellowship Hall following worship for conversation, coffee, and snacks.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on "The King of Love"

arr. Young

Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ,
God raised us to new life
Let us confess to God our sins
And all that waits for resurrection in our lives.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of love,
the witness of the resurrection can be hard to believe:
we resist your unfailing love for us and for others,
and we turn our backs on the gift of new life,
choosing instead the old way of sin,
the way that takes us away from you
and leads us back toward death.

**Free us from the power of sin,
guide us by your spirit,
and help us in our weakness,
that we may live as your children,
restored to new and everlasting life. Amen**

By God's grace you are forgiven and born anew.
May you be strengthened daily with the power
to walk in God's light and love.

Amen

GATHERING SONG

Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Hymn 369



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!

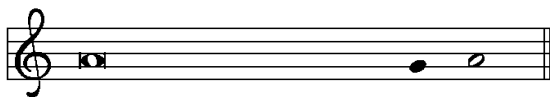
Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

GREETING

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.

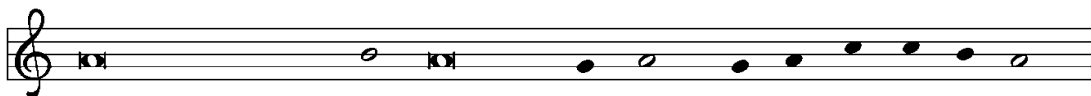
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



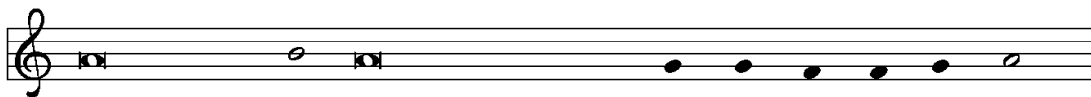
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Still
Chancel Choir

McDonald

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4: 5-12

NT 105

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**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.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**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

NT 213

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 10: 11-21

NT 90

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

¹⁹Again the Jews were divided because of these words. ²⁰Many of them were saying, "He

has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" ²¹Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Talsness

Please stand if you are able.



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response after each prayer: God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

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.

MEAL


DIALOGUE




The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

Amen.

SENDING

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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.



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
 lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
 by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

arr. Kerr

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS (both vases) are given today by **Lynnetta Hartson** *in loving memory of Verne Hartson.*

ETERNAL CANDLE is given this month by **Cheryl & Frank Liebgott** *in remembrance for those Messiah saints who have gone on before us, in the assurance of eternal life in Christ.*

IT'S BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Join us for Fellowship Time when we will celebrate Messiah members with April birthdays.

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate the Mortgage Payoff
Friday, May 3 at 6:30 pm

The congregation and the community will gather to burn the mortgage and celebrate this milestone in the life of Messiah. The Bourbon Boys Band will play, and there will be BBQ sandwiches. Ice cream will be for sale. Bring chairs and a beverage--invite your friends and neighbors to join the fun!

MESSIAH READS BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 pm
Conference Room at Messiah

For this month, the book is *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. Sharing her own story, Kate is very sick, and no amount of positive thinking will shrink her tumors. What does it mean to die, she wonders, in a society that insists everything happens for a reason? Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before. Rev. Karen Scheib will lead the discussion and we will meet at church for this session. Don't miss it!

May Book: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

Messiah Reads meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, and all are welcome.

FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

Deadline: May 5

For Mother's Day this year, the Outreach Team is collecting for Magdalene House, a Savannah domestic violence shelter for women and their children. Pick up a pink shopping list from the Outreach Table in the Narthex and buy any of the products. Thank you in advance for your support and prayers for this special collection.

MESSIAH WOMENS RETREAT

May 17 & 18, 2024

The theme of this year's women's is "**Thread by Thread.**" We will explore this image as it weaves its way through Psalm 139 and Rahab's story, as told in Joshua 1-2 New Testament references. You will have opportunities for quiet time, walking a labyrinth, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Come for a time of spiritual reflection, renewal, and fellowship. There is no charge for the retreat.

- **Date:** Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with an optional overnight stay for up to twelve people on Friday, May 17th beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- **Place:** The Kuhn's farm in Millen, Georgia. (One hour and forty-minute drive from Skidaway)
- **Leaders:** Rev. Dr. Ellen Shepard and Pastor Karen Scheib. For more information contact Karen Scheib or Gayle Denny.

AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST

Food for April

Canned fruit is the food for the month.

Food Delivery

Volunteers are needed to deliver food to Second Harvest at the beginning of each month. The signup sheet is on the Narthex Kiosk along with the information needed. Call Lynn McLauchlan (410.353.9795) if you have questions.

SERMON PREVIEW

The fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday, an image taken from John 10. Jesus describes himself in language that echoes the famous 23rd Psalm—he is the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He holds his flock in the arms of his love, leading us through the shadows and valleys of life. He is willing to die for his sheep, and he even overcomes death for them. He will never abandon or forget his sheep, with us now and forever. Questions for reflection: If you could introduce Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd..." to someone who had never heard it before, how would you introduce it? Jesus uses images of the hired hand and the wolf. How do those figures differ from the Good Shepherd?



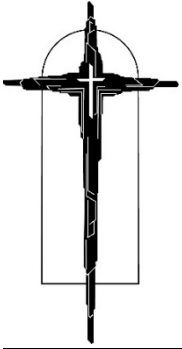
THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Minister, Pastoral Care	Karen Scheib
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Elizabeth A. Eaton
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Messiah Wind Ensemble Director	Vacant
Altar Guild	Janet Reardon
Reader	Fred Kuhn
Evangelism Greeters	Kathy & Ken Ritz
Ushers	Norrita & Jerry Thorne
Communion Assistants	Ethel Baldwin and Layne Rabold
Acolytes	Helena Talsness and Sophia Wade
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind, Host, and Cheryl Liebgott, Cake

MILESTONES THIS WEEK:

Birthdays: Bob Farr 04/21, Judy Lawrence 4/26

Anniversaries: None



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 21	9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Children's Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship Time 10:20 am Confirmation Class 10:20 am Discipleship Class
Monday, April 22	<i>8:45 am Landings Garden Club</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:30 pm Executive Team 3:30 pm Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 23	3:00 pm Stephen Minister Training <i>3:00 pm Serendipity</i> 6:30 pm Messiah Reads
Wednesday, April 24	8:30 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 10:00 am PLARning Group 4:00 pm Worship & Music Team 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday, April 25	
Friday, April 26	
Saturday, April 27	

Italics indicate Outside Groups.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Pastor	Jason Talsness	770.570-7407	skidawaypastorj@gmail.com
Education & Discipleship	Randi VenHuizen	402.216.3067	randiv1026@gmail.com
Evangelism (Membership)	Claire Cornwell-Williams	912.658.4114	cwilliams17@comcast.net
Finance	Chloe Baur	605.430.7444	chloebaur@outlook.com
Parish Life (Social & TLC)	Gayle Denny	513.604.0764	gdgardener@comcast.net
Property	Tim Andrews	612.868.5222	timandrews1114@comcast.net
Social Ministry (Outreach)	Amanda Ridberg	203.273.4827	aprestoridberg@gmail.com
Staff Support/HR/Mutual Ministry	Jane Holst	404.775.1442	janeholst1399@comcast.net
Stewardship (Contributions)	Steve Derr	912.429.6371	sederr83@gmail.com
Treasurer	Parker Pearson	410.349.7704	parkpear@aol.com
Worship & Music	Lana Gilster	952.250.7510	lanagilster@earthlink.net

Officers/Executive Team: Claire Cornwell-Williams, President; Tim Andrews Vice-President, Steve Derr, Secretary; and Parker Pearson, Treasurer.

IN THE NAME of JESUS
MESSIAH LUTHERAN

Welcome
Grow
Support
Serve