**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pastor: Rev. Katie Anderson | Music Director: Rev. Lois Swanson |
| Pastor’s Cell: (715) 245-1943 | Office Phone: (715) 387-2731 |
| Pastor Email: gslcwi.pastor@gmail.com | Office Email: gslcwi.office@gmail.com |
| Website: GoodShepherdMarshfield.org | www.facebook.com/gslcwi |

**Easter Sunday**

**March 31, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

We might expect that, after denying Christ, Peter would cower in shame—or perhaps even run away in an attempt to leave his past behind him. Instead, when he hears the news from the women, he doesn’t dismiss them like the other disciples. He gets up and runs to the tomb. When he peers into the empty tomb and sees the linen cloth, he is filled with awe. Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter, will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

A picture containing text, wooden, old, wood

Description automatically generated**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

**But not today.**

**Today we know that love has won.**

**Today we know that hope is real.**

**Today we know that Christ is here.**

We have a reason to hope.

**We have a reason to sing!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**GATHERING SONG Jesus Christ is Risen Today ELW 365**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

☩ one God,

the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth,

our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus’ wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of new beginnings, On that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently. Open our ears that we may hear the sound of Alleluias ringing in Your word. Open our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter may feel within our reach. Open our hearts that we may believe the unbelievable. Like Peter, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts, we listen and pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Be Still and Know ACS 1083**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

34Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

 1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
  God’s mercy endures forever.  
 2**Let Israel now declare,**  
  **“God’s mercy endures forever.”**  
 14The Lord is my strength and my song,  
  and has become my salvation.  
 15**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**  
  **“The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**  
 16The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
  The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”  
 17**I shall not die, but live,**  
  **and declare the works of the Lord.**  
 18The Lord indeed punished me sorely,  
  but did not hand me over to death.  
 19**Open for me the gates of righteousness;**  
  **I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**  
 20“This is the gate of the Lord;  
  here the righteous may enter.”  
 21**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**  
  **and you have become my salvation.**  
 22The stone that the builders rejected  
  has become the chief cornerstone.  
 23**By the Lord has this been done;**  
  **it is marvelous in our eyes.**  
 24This is the day that the Lord has made;  
  let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

1Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.  
 3For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 14**

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12**

1But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8Then they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON And I Hope…**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Now the Green Blade Rises ELW 379**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A picture containing person, ground, outdoor

Description automatically generated**We may weep through the longest nights.**

**We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.**

**We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.**

**But today, we are a people of hope.**

**We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.**

**We believe that Jesus abides among us,**

**healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout the world.**

**We believe that a tomb could not hold him.**

**We believe that the sun does rise.**

**We believe that Peter was there**

**with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.**

**We believe that the story is not over yet,**

**for God is among us.**

**Today we are a people of hope.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…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.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in March*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***Marshfield Area Respite Care Center.***

**OFFERING SONG Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW 389**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ACS pg. 20**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;

you encircled the globe with air;

you created fire for warmth and light;

you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,

and with mercy higher than the mountains,

with grace deeper than the seas,

you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,

might be adopted to live in your Spirit,

you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,

we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,

the first-born of your new creation.

We remember his life lived for others,

and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

We await his coming,

when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,

all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,

send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,

whose breath revives us for life,

whose fire rouses us to love.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,

that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,

receive our praise and petitions,

as Jesus received the cry of the needy,

and fill us with your blessing,

until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,

we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:

through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE 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** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God’s table.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**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**

**BENEDICTION**

Logo

Description automatically generated with low confidenceBeloved wanderer,

as you leave this place,

may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat,

to run to the tomb,

and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,

may you hear God’s voice deep within,

saying, “Take heart, it is I, be not afraid.”

You are called.

You are blessed.

In both your ups and your downs,

you always belong to God.

Go now in peace.

Go trusting that good news.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN Thine is the Glory ELW 376**

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| March 31  Easter | Brett & Breanna Butler | Kris Tarter | Ron Rothfusz  Andrea Hovick | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler | March:  Nancy Lenard  Jannalee Kolbeck Lindquist  Heidi Binder |
| April 7 | Dave & Kami Weis | Shelly Schneider | John Wagner  Nancy Leonard | Robin Beeman | David Schneider | April:  Julie Will  Deb Janz  Chris Tipping |
| April 14 | Nancy Leonard | Tammy Neumann | Dave & Shelly Schneider | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |
| April 21 | Rob & Leslie Mader | Linda Schrieber | Christopher Stuttgen Danielle Stuttgen | Pam Mundt | May Hill |

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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes:

Kidney Beans, Baked Beans, Sandwich Bags, Chicken Noodle Soup, Dish Soap, Oatmeal, Jelly, Gravy,Pudding, Broth, All Purpose Cleaner, Shampoo, Conditioner, Pancake Mix, Baking Items, Paper Towels, Dried Soup. **Urgently need: canned Stew, Jelly and canned meats.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, March 31 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Easter Sunday   Luke 24:1-12; Jesus’ resurrection |
| Tuesday, April 2 | 6:30 pm | Executive Committee Meeting |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA meeting |
| Wednesday, April 3 | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (discuss Season 3 Episode 1 of “The Chosen”) |
| Thursday, April 4 | 11am-2pm | Purple Angels Lunch and Fellowship |
| Sunday, April 7 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School   * Second Sunday of Easter * John 21:1-19; Jesus has breakfast with the disciples on the beach   Purple Angels Lunch and Fellowship |

Through the season of Lent, we have been exploreing Peter’s faith journey, as well as our own faith journey. Today, we reflect on where God has been present and moving in our story. When have you felt God walking with you, and when have you felt God was waiting for you?

**A group of people standing in a line

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We are seeking two delegates to attend the Synod Assembly, June 7-8 in Eau Claire. This year is a bishop’s election, so you will help shape synod leadership for the next several years! The synod specifies we need one lay male and one lay female to attend.

A frame of flowers and leaves

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