

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023
9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayerground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

*In
Thanksgiving
for Baptism,
we recall how
God has joined
us to Christ
through
baptism and
clothes us with
mercy and
forgiveness.*

† Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

*The
thanksgiving
praises God for
all of God’s
saving actions
through water
and the word,
praying and*

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

*trusting that
this assembly
will be
renewed by
the Holy Spirit
in forgiveness,
grace, and
love.*

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

**† Gathering Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
ELW 385**

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.
Text © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns *Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

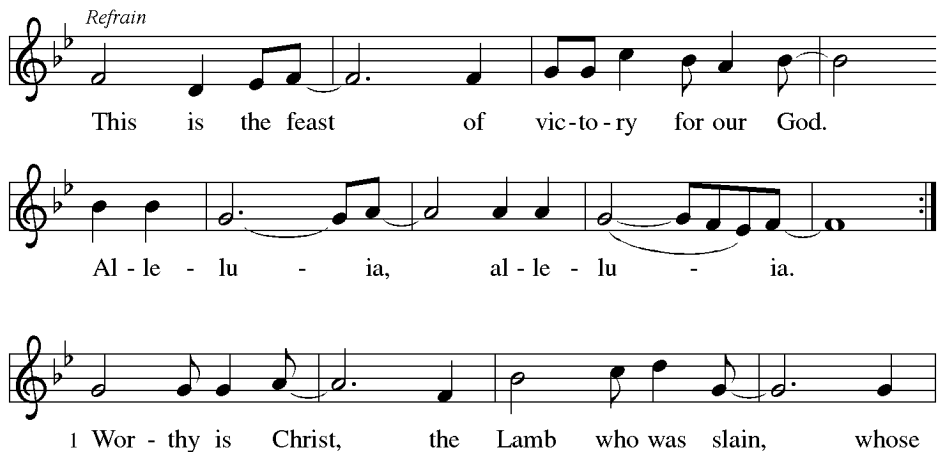
† Greeting

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.

Along with the return of the Alleluia, the Hymn of Praise returns on Easter Sunday to signify the joy of the resurrection.

† Hymn of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



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



2 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.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

† Prayer of the Day

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

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

Throughout the season of Easter, the First Reading is always appointed from the book of Acts, following the development of the early church after the resurrection of Christ.

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

To put this reading into context:

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

Hear now the reading:

life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation: Halle Halle Hallelujah ELW 172**

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.

Music: Caribbean traditional

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† **Gospel: John 10:1-10**

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do

not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

Children’s Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children’s Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Barbara Holzhauser, Transition Pastor with Trinity Lutheran Church, Lakewood (Pastor Marissa is preaching and worshipping with our siblings in Christ at Trinity this morning).

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

When have you experienced Jesus “shepherding” you? When have you experienced Jesus “shepherding” a community?

† Hymn of the Day: Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us ELW 789

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.

2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the
same pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting
with God*

† Prayers of Intercession

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.


You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Help us to sustain your creation. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way especially Peter, Helen, Andrew, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer, the family of Kaethe Buchholz, our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

	<p>Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.</p>
<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ’s peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, “Peace” or “Peace be with you” sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God’s ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don’t take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil’s support page.</i></p> 
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God’s blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen ELW 377 vs 1</p> <p>1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!</p>

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

† **Offering Prayer**

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
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 thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† **Preface**

† Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

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 the Table

Come, see, and experience the Risen Christ, and God's great love poured out for you. **Amen.**

We will continue to observe standing processional communion throughout the season of Easter—standing is considered “the posture of resurrection.” Another way for us to embody the resurrection of Jesus!

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord’s table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian’s preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle single file to the front. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW 502

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before 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

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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

† Blessing

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing ELW 544

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring

yours the final victory.

- 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.
- 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

*The dismissal
sends us out as
Christ's Body—
fed, nourished,
and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, and
our service
begins!*

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area
for coffee hour immediately following worship.*

Coffee Hour Discussion Question:

**Have you had an experience with sheep? Share that with
someone and/or find someone who has a sheep story!**

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Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: Rev. Barbara Holzhauser	Reader: Barbara Munch
Ushers: Bill Fink Alexandra Inman Amanda Inman	Counters: Jessica Berkshire Bill Fink
Online Usher: Dave Blocksom	Acolyte: Alexandra Inman
Livestream: Jessica Berkshire	Sunday School Teachers: Louise DeBell (Early Learners) Mandy Forshey (Primary) Darlene Wahl (Middle Schoolers)
Communion Assistants: Laura O'Neil Shawn O'Neil	



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, April 30, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Andrew Evatt, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer Oster, the family of Kaethe Buchholz, and our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Steve Bugosh (May 2), Jacob Wylie (May 3), Corey Mattson (May 4)

For those celebrating their baptism:

George Young (May 4)

Please welcome Pastor Barb Holzhauser: Good Soil and Trinity Lutheran are having a “pulpit swap” today! Pastor Marissa is preaching and worshiping with Trinity while Pastor Barb (Trinity’s transition pastor) is presiding here with Good Soil. We thank Pastor Barb for being with us and look forward to the new relationships ahead as the wider Body of Christ together. We continue to hold the people of Trinity in our prayers as they prepare for Holy Closure and their final worship service on June 11th.

Acts Bible Study 7pm via Zoom: We hear from the book of Acts every Sunday throughout the Season of Easter. Join Pastor Marissa for a bible study via zoom at 7pm on these Wednesdays (5/3, 5/10 remaining) to explore the book of Acts and connections with Good Soil’s new Guiding Principles. Please RSVP to admin@goodsoillutheran.org to sign-up and receive the zoom link (zoom link also included in e-news). Grow in faith and deeper in relationships too.

Save the Date 5/20 - TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE + PICNIC: On Saturday, May 20th Good Soil will be hosting a spring property day 10am-12pm to help plant flowers, pull weeds, and beautify this corner of God’s earth we call Good Soil. We have also been invited to assist Trinity Lutheran in their final produce giveaway event at Lakewood Congregational Church’s parking lot also from 10am-12pm. Then we will all gather at Good Soil for an afternoon picnic beginning at 1pm to get more acquainted. If you can assist with picnic planning, please contact Bill Fink bfink06@yahoo.com.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Apr 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am
Wed, May 3	Acts Bible Study – Zoom	7:00 pm
Thu, May 4	Confirmation Class – Bethesda on the Bay	5:30 pm
Sat, May 6	Ladies’ Breakfast – Gene’s Place	9:00 am
Sun, May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am
Tue, May 9	GS Executive Team Meeting	7:30 pm
Wed, May 10	Acts Bible Study – Zoom	7:00 pm