

# *A JOY TO HAVE HEARTS AT REST*



The Fifth Sunday Of Easter  
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church  
365 West Grand Ave. Laramie, WY  
April 29, 2018



# WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

## A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Restrooms are located on your right and on your left immediately after you walk through the double doors next to the fire place.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, the café (first door on the left past the restrooms) is a great place to regroup and grab a cup of coffee.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let an usher know*
- *Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

## TODAY'S SERVICE

*Here is more fruit whose source is in the vine: an awareness that Christ is alive in us by his Word. And so, when our conscience wants to drive us to despair he is there to assure us of our forgiveness. That assurance is renewed week in and week out as we hear his Word. Then, bursting forth from the Vine himself, comes the fruit of love. That love is not mere sentiment; it is in the will, not the emotion. It is love that is determined to seek the best interests of those around us, even those who may hate us or not appreciate our eagerness to be of service. Some of the grapes have to be crushed in order to make wine.*

## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*O Risen Savior, fill me with Easter joy! Use the message that the tomb is empty to fill my heart with joy and peace. Walk with me today and each day of my life, that I might walk in the joy of the salvation you won for me! In Your name I pray. Amen.*

# GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

*God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended for use not only when there is a baptism but may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of Baptism's continuing blessings.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,  
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your



Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to



sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

P: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** *(John 3:5,6)*

P: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.  
*(Psalm 51:5)*

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -  
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of



forth your child and heir.  
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort



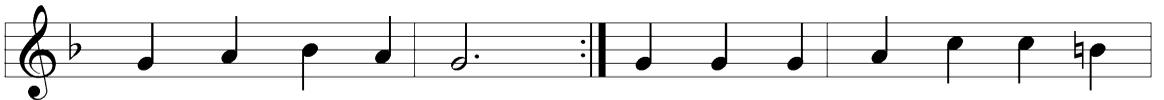
me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

P: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise  
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.  
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



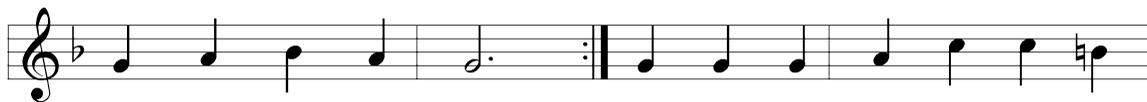
filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

P: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it  
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me



all, O Lord, from me.  
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or



own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

# GOD'S WORD

## ACTS 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth." <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

PSALM 67 (printed on the next page of your worship folder)

# PSALM 67

## *Refrain*



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

## *Psalm tone*



May God be gracious to us and bless us\*  
and make his face shine upon us;

may your ways be known on earth,\*  
your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,\*  
for you rule the peoples justly  
and guide the nations of the earth.

## *Refrain*

Then the land will yield its harvest,\*  
and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,\*  
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## *Refrain*

Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.  
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## JOHN 15:1-8

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

*<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*HYMN 505 — LOVE IS THE GRACIOUS GIFT*

*CHILDREN MAY COME FORWARD DURING VS 4 FOR THE CHILDRENS' DEVOTION*

*If you remain in me  
and I in you  
you will bear much fruit*

## 505

## Love Is the Gracious Gift



1 Love is the gra - cious gift of your good - ness;  
 2 You loved me first, Lord, send - ing me Je - sus.  
 3 Love means for - give - ness, pa - tience, and kind - ness;  
 4 Love in a mar - riage, love free - ly giv - en,  
 5 Love a - mong Chris - tians, love in the fam - 'ly,



Love is the pa - tient fruit of your care;  
 Then I re - spond - ed, trust - ing your Son.  
 Love is not jeal - ous, boast - ful, or rude.  
 Love of a hus - band, love of a wife—  
 Love for the Sav - ior, whose blood was shed,



Love is the gen - tle work of your Spir - it,  
 Now you in - vite me to love my neigh - bor,  
 Love en - dures all things, bear - ing, be - liev - ing;  
 Made to con - tin - ue, blos - som, and flour - ish,  
 Love and sub - mis - sion one to an - oth - er



Who is the source of love ev - 'ry - where.  
 Show - ing your true love to ev - 'ry - one.  
 Love hopes for - ev - er, re - joic - es in truth.  
 Grow ev - er deep - er through-out this life.  
 As un - to Christ, who reigns as our head.

Text: Donald E. Smith, b. 1952, alt. © 1985 Donald E. Smith. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: BUNESSAN (Irregular) Gaelic melody, 19th century.

# GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

1 JOHN 3:1-2

A JOY TO HAVE HEARTS AT REST

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

*<sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*



# CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!  
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. To those visiting, you are our guests. While your gifts are welcome, please do not feel obligated to give.*

*You can also support our ministry by clicking the "give" button at [www.LivingShepherd.com](http://www.LivingShepherd.com)*

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray on behalf of this church as well as on behalf of  
God's people throughout our nation and the world.*

P: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ from the dead.

**C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

P: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good and now Living Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious victory.**

P: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in his great power. Keep before our eyes the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

**C: *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”***

P: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

P: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life. And hear us, Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts we come before you and say:

C: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

P: Father, we bring these prayers before you, confident that you will hear and answer them. For it was your only Son who taught 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.**

## BLESSING

*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.  
The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them],  
and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen**

## CLOSING HYMN

*HYMN 571 — FROM GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAINS*

*(printed on page 14)*

## 571

## From Greenland's Icy Mountains



1 From Green-land's i - cy moun - tains, From In - dia's  
 2 What though the fra - grant breez - es Blow soft o'er  
 3 Can we whose souls are light - ed With wis - dom



cor - al strand, Where Af - ri - ca's bright foun - tains  
 dis - tant isles, Though ev - 'ry vis - ta pleas - es,  
 from on high, Can we to those be - night - ed



Roll down their gold - en sand, From man - y an an - cient  
 Yet sin the land de - files. In vain with lav - ish  
 The lamp of life de - ny? Sal - va - tion! Oh, sal -



riv - er, From man - y a palm - y plain, They call us  
 kind - ness The gifts of God are strown; The hea - then  
 va - tion! The joy - ful sound pro - claim Till each re -



to de - liv - er Their land from er - ror's chain.  
 in their blind - ness Bow down to wood and stone.  
 mot - est na - tion Has learned Mes - si - ah's name.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.

Tune: MISSIONARY HYMN (76 76 D) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

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*Artwork by Ian Welch — 2010 Graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary*

*Living Shepherd Logo by Rachel Westra — Westra Design*

## **WELCOME!**

We welcome everyone here today and thank you for joining us for Worship! We hope that you will join us again soon.

## **TREATS FROM SWEETS BAKERY AND COFFEE!**

We hope you can stick around after worship to join us for some treats from Sweets Bakery and some freshly brewed coffee!

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Next Sunday May 6th we'll continue our Bible Study in the book of Proverbs called "Solomon Speaks." Join us at 9 AM!



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*Call or Text Anytime!!*



**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.