

Easter

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 3, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord's My Shepherd

Tune: James L. Macbeth Bain; "Brother James' Air"

Jan Hazelton, Scott Hafso

PROCLAMATION

PM: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING


PM: 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

Glory to God

Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. O God our shepherd,

C: 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

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

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."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

How? How? Why? Why? Why?

Pastor Jim Kruse

It was a damp Friday night in late spring a few years back, that our small group of theater-goers found ourselves running late as we headed out the door of the restaurant. As I took my first few steps, Laurie, our friend, who keeps the group organized and receives the tickets in the mail each week, discreetly passed the tickets for the performance off to me. "Here," she said. "A man should hold the tickets."

Not quite agreeing with her point, I took a quick glance at the title of the play and put them in my pocket. "How? How? Why? Why? Why?", that is what it said across the ticket. And as all walked the six blocks up the street to the theater my mind was captured by this strange title, "How? How? Why? Why? Why?"

We soon found out that “How? How? Why? Why? Why?” was a one-man production, written and acted by a wonderful story-teller from Minnesota named, Kevin Kling, who no longer had use of either of his arms. Born with a disabled left arm, Kling’s right arm was left paralyzed after a motorcycle accident that nearly killed him. The left arm was short and straight, and he could use it to push something aside, or hold something between his biceps and body. The right arm hung limply at his side.

As the title suggests, the play was about his struggle to come to terms with what had happened to him, both by fate and by accident, and then to live out his life with hope and humor. But what is most interesting, and is the reason I am telling you about the play, is how Kevin Kling came up with the title of his play. Because of his disability, Kling had purchased voice recognition software for his computer so he could write just by talking. Using this advanced program saved him the time of trying to figure out how to do the data entry himself. And it saved him the expense hiring someone to do it for him.

One day while he was trying to write, his small dachshund started barking loudly out the window. Kling got up to see what all the excitement was about and to quiet the dog. And when he came back to his computer, there on the screen were the words, “How. How. Why. Why. Why.” The voice recognition software had picked up the barking of his dog to produce the perfect expression of how he was feeling about his life.

Almost from the beginning of this pandemic we are in today, these questions, “How? How? Why? Why? Why?”, have been living just beneath the surface of our lives. Yet we have been moving too fast just trying to keep up, just trying to figure out how to live our lives, to hear them. We have not had time to hear the deep questions of our hearts. But now, two months into it, the volume is starting to rise. Where did this virus come from? Early answers are being reevaluated. It is more complicated than we thought. What exactly is it? Well, it’s complicated. Why do some people get sick and others don’t? Why do some who get sick recover and others don’t? How can we shut down our lives and keep our economy from crumbling? How can we stay safe and still go about our lives?

The deeper the questions, the more difficult they are to answer. And the more strain they put on our hearts.

There is evidence that the “How? How? Why? Why? Why?” voice is now growing louder and louder. Fear of living life without income has led to protests across the county. “How? How? Why? Why? Why?” Feeling the economic burden of closed businesses, some states are starting to lift stay-at-home restrictions. “How? How? Why? Why? Why?” Studies are showing that cabin fever has us wandering more frequently and further away from home. “How? How? Why? Why? Why?”

At the same time, some of those who have studied the models of how the virus spreads, or are working with infected in clinics or hospitals, or have personal experience with the suffering and dying, are shouting even louder: It is unwise. It is too dangerous. It is too soon. “How? How? Why? Why? Why?”

When Jesus talks to his friends, in the Gospel for today, about the way that God will be known through a resurrected and glorified Lord, he talks to them about God’s version of a “voice recognition” system. “The sheep hear his voice,” Jesus says. “He calls them by name and leads them out. . . . The sheep follow him because they know his voice.” And then Jesus says, “[the sheep] will run from the stranger because they do not know the voice of the

stranger.”

In the same way that Kevin Kling’s voice recognition system was hearing the voice of a barking of his dog, and spit out the wrong message, so we are hearing a stranger’s voice. The anger and the fear and the grief are messing with us. Back and forth the stranger is shouting, “Get back to life!” “Be afraid of life!” “Get back to life!” “Be afraid of life!” And on and on. Our voice recognition system is out of whack.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus leaves us with a simple clue about what is going on. “The stranger is a thief,” he says, “who climbs over the fence and into our lives unwanted and uninvited. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I am the gate. I come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The voice to follow is the one that gives life in all its abundance. The voice to run away from is the one pulls things down and takes life away.

The voice of the shepherd speaks to us most clearly in the event of the cross—the death and resurrection of Christ—the heart of our Easter Celebration. From the cross, the God of all things choose takes on the fear that shuts us in, as well as the fear that pushes us out into the danger. The Christ of God takes on all that steals and kills and destroys. These things go with him into the grave. And then, in a surprising move toward abundant life, God pulls back the stone raising up the crucified one to a gloried new life. A life on the other side of anger and fear and grief. A life that never ends.

In baptism, this story becomes our story. This life is our life. This future is our future. In fact, our voice recognition systems are keenly tuned. We run away from the urges, the behaviors, the words and practices that give this pandemic its power over us. We shun the things that push others away, that break relationships, that hoard the resource of life for ourselves to the detriment of those around us here or on the other side of the world.

As people who live by a finely tuned voice recognition systems, we hear the cries of others, a barely discernable barking in the world, and translate these cries into urges and behaviors, words and actions that build up life. We join the voices of groups that bang and pots and pans to say thanks to medical workers, and place teddy bears in windows to give children hope, and shelter and feed those who have become displace and hungry. We honor the giver of all life by sharing the resources of life and receiving what we need from others with gratitude.

The voice of God is clear as it calls form the gate. And “How, How, Why, Why, Why,” becomes “Yes, Yes, Life, Life, Life?”

Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

Text: Issac Watts, 1674-1748, based on Psalm 23; Tune: North American traditional

My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is your name.
In pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.
You bring my wand’ring spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me, for your mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
Oh, may your house be my abode and all my work be praise.
Here would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

OFFERING

As we continue to gather for worship using an on-line format, we take a moment to give thanks for God's gracious activity in our world through our offering of our financial contributions in support OSLC's ministry obligations. To request pre-printed mail-in contribution envelopes, or information about contributing using electronic transfer of funds, please refer to the email that accompanied the link to this bulletin.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.
Day by day you shower us with blessings.
As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

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 into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of 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

+Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

[A brief silence.]

God of Resurrection, you are our source of life and hope.

+ We give thanks for your gifts of love and life; open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call; inspire us to be your hands and voice in your world; grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated, equipped and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for *Earth Ministry* and *Lutherans Restoring Creation*.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

- + We lift up those communities where insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to these siblings.
- + We pray for those places, people, and animals in the wake of natural disasters - including our siblings in the southeastern states. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild. Help us to be generous partners with *Lutheran Disaster Response*.
- + We are thankful for the medical services by Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, and we pray for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

- + We lift up Dave, Kip, Evy Emily, Mike, Anthony, Lynnette, Sheelagh, Claire, Carmine, Dan, JoAnne, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.
- + We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.
- + God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

We pray hold in prayer those affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

- + Bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died.
- + Grant healing for those diagnosed.
- + Keep safe those whose health conditions make them especially vulnerable to this virus.
- + Protect medical workers, care providers, and first responders.
- + Sustain chaplains who bring prayer and care to those hospitalized and in nursing homes.
- + We give thanks for all non-medical essential workers who continue to serve our communities providing food, medicine, safety, childcare, and other vital services.
- + Guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine and for our government and health organization leaders as they discern a path forward.
- + Sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty due to loss of income. Help us to share generously.
- + Bless our ministry leaders as they explore care-filled and creative ways to gather online for worship, prayer, and fellowship. We give thanks for the grace-filled support our leaders have shown one another.
- + For all who anxious and worried, ground us in facts and center us in your love and peace.
- + During these days of physical isolation, grant us patience, humor, compassion, and courage.

We pray for those who are grieving:

- + Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness.
- + We lift up the family and friends of Barbara, Evelyn, Susan and David.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

We pray for your church:

- + We give thanks for the leaders and participants in our church ministries. Grant energy and creativity for their work. Grant them grace to rest, grant them peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, and Hearthstone Community.

Sustain us in our journey:

+ Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

BLESSING

PM: The God of all grace,
who has called you to eternal glory in Christ,
restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

C: Amen

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G Major — G.F. Handel

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387, Monday, May 4

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416, Friday, May 8

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF), Friday, May 8

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer, hymnwriter, died 1760, Saturday, May 9

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Sue Friddell
Song Leaders:	Sue Johnson, Alice Lewis, Leslie Waltzer, David Hersey, Marc Montague
Flautist:	Jan Hazelton
Videographer:	Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14

Acknowledgements: Liturgy reprinted from *SundaysandSeasons.com*, copyright © 2019, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under **Media 1517 License #32992**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Reprinted by permission under **OneLicense.net License #A-706795: Glory to God**.

Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*
(Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877; Music: Irish tune)

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Dave Carlson a kidney donor will be found quickly.
Kip Hauser healing and recovery following his angiogram. (father of Cheryl Hauser)

Evy Sneva continued healing and medication monitoring, peace for her family. (Karen Hansen)

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Mike Winkler in ICU with COVID19, 48 yr. old Seattle Transit bus driver, strength and healing. (Jerry & Linda Nack)

Anthony Templeton breathing problems and a long standing cold, unrelated to corona virus. (Grandson of Cheryl Landers)

Lynnette eye infection and symptoms of corona virus. (daughter of Cheryl Neeb)

Sheelagh Sacks undergoing radiation for ongoing breast cancer treatment. (Laura Anderson)

Claire Howe healing/peace & strength as she recovers from a fall (Shelley Howe)

Carmine Kopecky new born, healing of a heart defect (Cheryl Leiter)

Dan Cox [brother of Ginger Grette] diagnosed with throat cancer. (Marilyn Carlson)

JoAnne Naganawa cancer has returned, effective treatment, comfort and healing. (Marilyn Carlson)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Marian James;

Douglas Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas** (Pr. Telyea); **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **Talton Johnson**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow** (Wendy Winslow); **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Amy Aldworth (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Floyd Rogers** (Connie Fletcher); **Lori Anglin** (Janet Heck); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Expectant Mothers: Jessica Murguia (Cheryl Hauser); **Yili Leiter** (Cheryl Leiter); **Elsa Walker** (daughter of Chuck Bachman & Wendy Winslow)

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Barbara Nielson** (Karen Hansen); **Evelyn Timpe** (step-mother to Patty Gerde); **Susan Moffett** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **David Woods** (Lyle & Alice Lewis)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For the medical services by Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem, for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. (Global Missions). **Henrik & Patty Christopherson**. Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

Thanksgiving: For the joyous birth of **Ashton Kendall Wilson** on April 15th to Emily & Dontay Wilson (grandson to Larry & Ann Thomas).