

# WE are **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)**

918 South Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ

Office: 623-932-2394

Website: [www.christevangelical.org](http://www.christevangelical.org)

Interim Pastor: Kim Sterner (cell phone: 602-510-9575)

## **Welcome and thank you for coming to worship!**

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

9:00am

*-Service of Word and Sacrament-*

*The Gathering*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER GREETING

P: Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

Christ Lives! Christ Lives indeed!

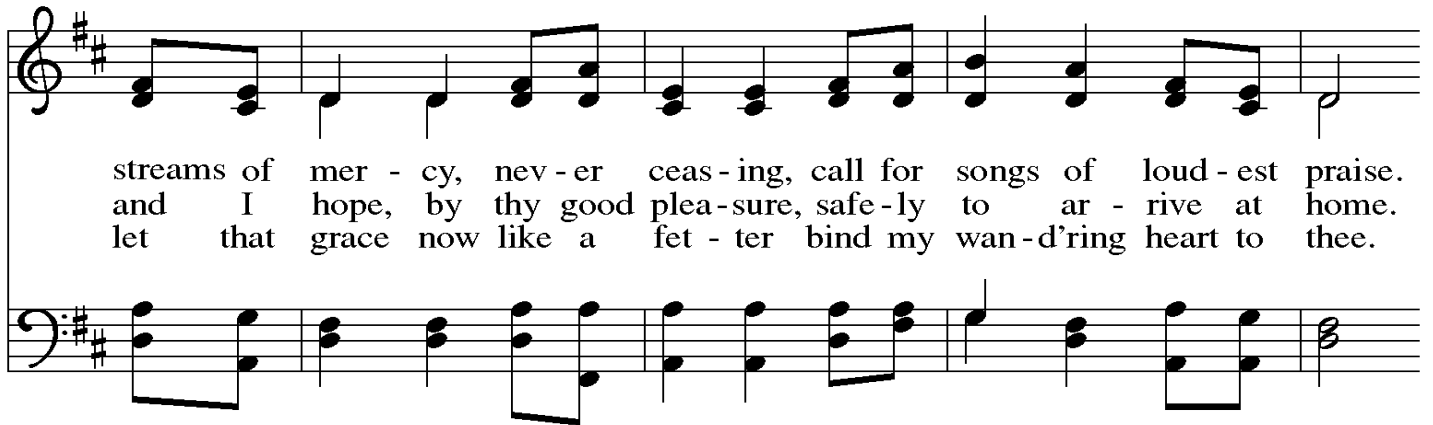
Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

SHARING OF THE PEACE


GATHERING HYMN: ELW 807 "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"



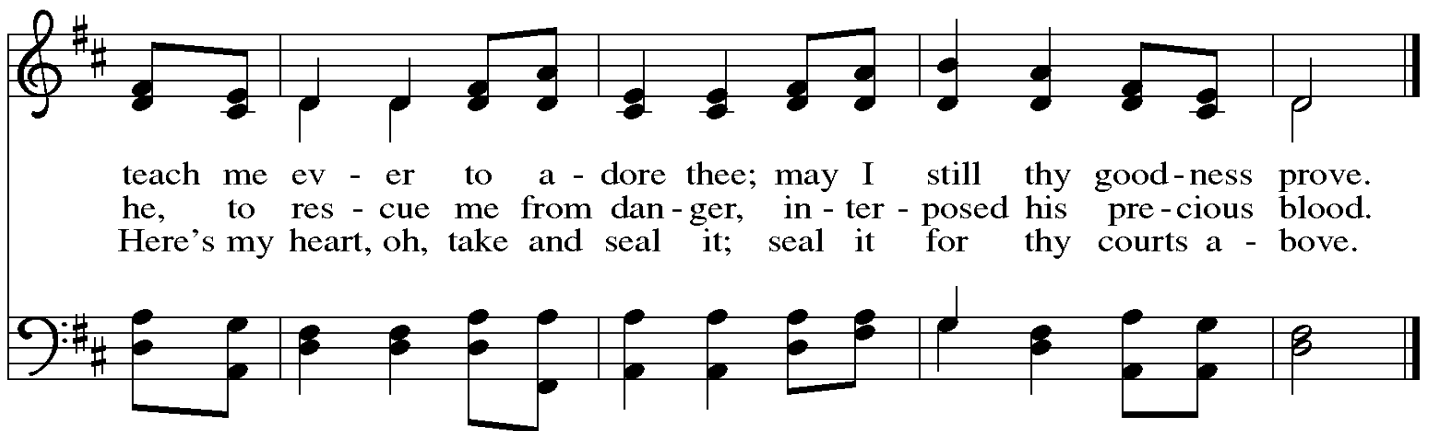
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

**P** In the name of ✠ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,  
and we are a new creation.  
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Now breathe upon this water  
and awaken your church once more.  
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.  
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,  
our Shepherd and Lamb,  
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## PASTORAL GREETING

**P** The grace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.  
**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.**

*[Congregation is seated.]*

## The Word

### FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

*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.*

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

43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day 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, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23

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

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

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

<sup>6</sup> **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: I PETER 2:19-25

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

19 It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. 20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

22 “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      *“RESUCITO”*

Refrain:      Resucito, resucito, resucito, aleluya.  
Aleluya, Aleluya, Aleluya, Resucito.

Vs.      With him then, die and live with him then,  
Rise and sing our hymn then, sing alleluia!

## GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

*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 St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**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. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his

own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The 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.

SERMON: REV. KIM

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 883 *“ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL”* VS. 1, 2, 4, & 5

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
 is for - ev - er - sure; his truth at all times  
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the

praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**P:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### *The Meal*

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC ELW 556 *"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"*

*BY ALEN POTE*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE] (NUMBER 4)

**P** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Now, Father, we ask you to bless the food we are about to receive, that it would nourish and strengthen us to serve you with our lives until we share that glorious and eternal banquet which you have prepared for us. And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too. **Holy God, gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful - these you deserve.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks...

Remembering his love for us on the way,  
at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ has risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the Risen Lord

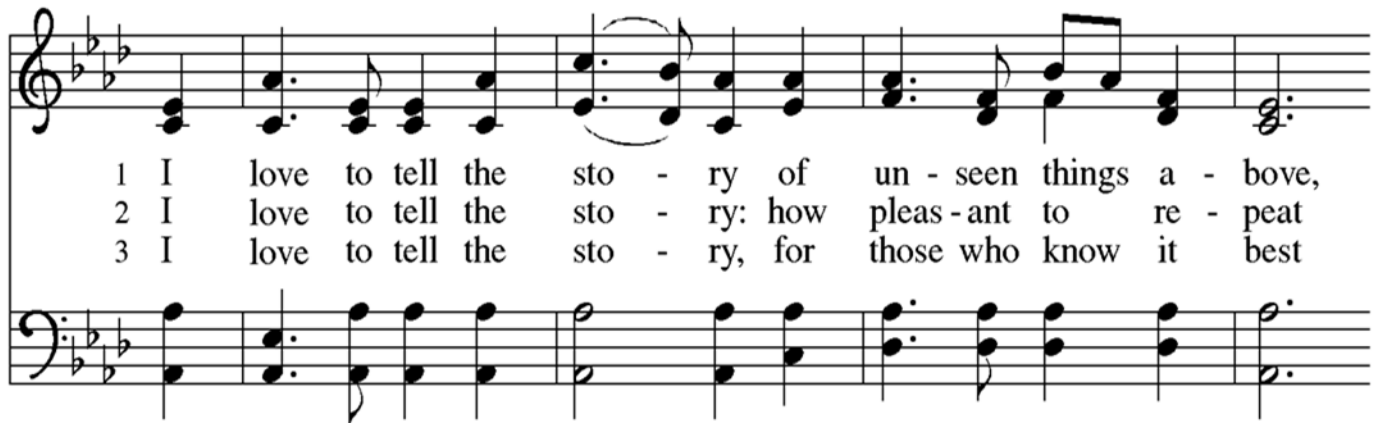
## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION SONG: : ELW 661 "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

PASTORAL BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** Let us pray.

Holy One

through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### *The Sending*

## BENEDICTION:

**P** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW 593 *“GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN” VS. 1 & 2*

## DISMISSAL:

**P** God in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sels guide, up-hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; ho-ly wings se-cure-ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per-ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en-fold you;  
 dai-ly man-na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a-gain.  
 put un-fail-ing arms a-round you;

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet a-gain,

meet at Je-sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a-gain.  
 meet a-gain,