GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR CAROL WEBER – CANTOR

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 21, 2024



The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

> VISIT US AT: WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG and on Facebook

Welcome to worship! Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDELe Bon Pasteur (The Good Shepherd)
My Shepherd, You Supply My NeedDom Paul Benoit
Charles Callahan

Please stand and face the baptismal font near the entrance of the church.

- P. Christ is risen! Alleluia!
- C. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as Pastor begins.

- P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
- C. Amen.
- P. Look, here is water!
- C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
- P. Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!
 C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
- P. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.
 We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C. Amen.
- P. Look, here is water!
- C. Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

ENTRANCE HYMN

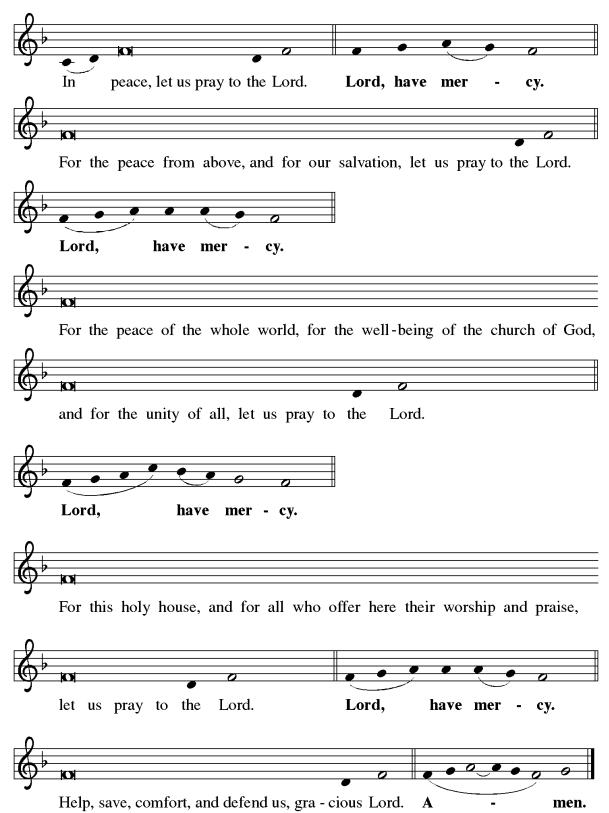


Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt. Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

GREETING

- P. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
- C. The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia

KYRIE



HYMN Of PRAISE: This Is the Feast of Victory





PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

A. A reading from Acts, the 4th Chapter.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

- A. The Word of the God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1986 G1A Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

A. A reading from 1st John, the 3rd Chapter.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

- A. The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

Choir Verse:

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own. and my own know me. (John 10:14)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

P. The Holy Gospel According to John, the 10th Chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

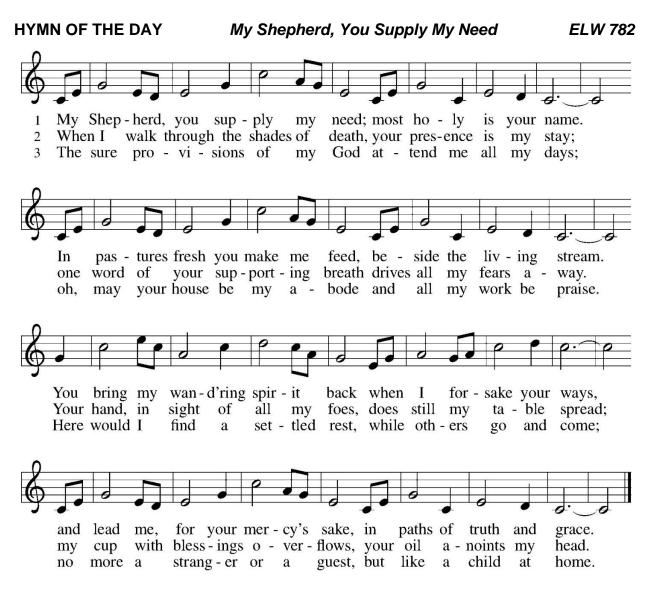
Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional



A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.

NICENE CREED

C. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, provide inspiration and guidance for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving the conflicts in Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and every place in the world where there is violence and war. Enable leaders to listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Compassionate God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems, especially those we pray for in silence and aloud. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

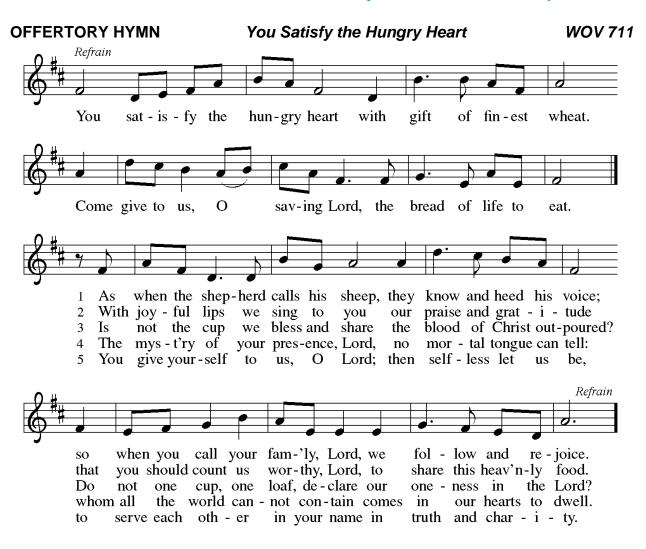
- P, Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
- C. Amen.

PEACE Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

- P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

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. **C. Amen.**

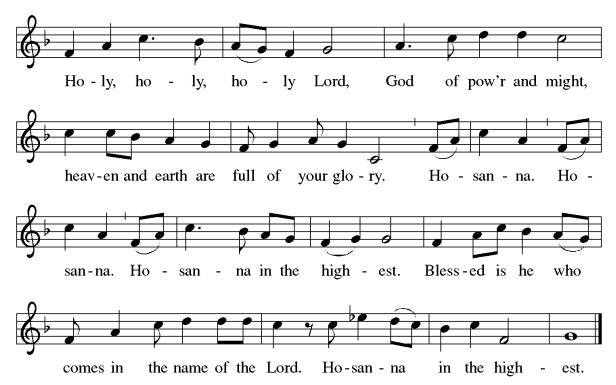
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them to the Lord.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus who is the Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or be seated.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

> In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, blessed, and 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

With 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. **C. Amen.**

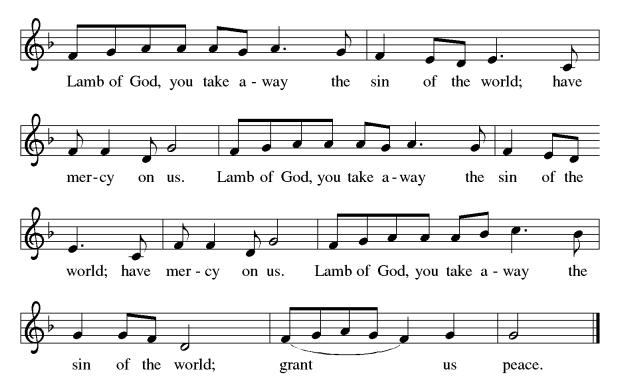
THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:
- C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI





CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

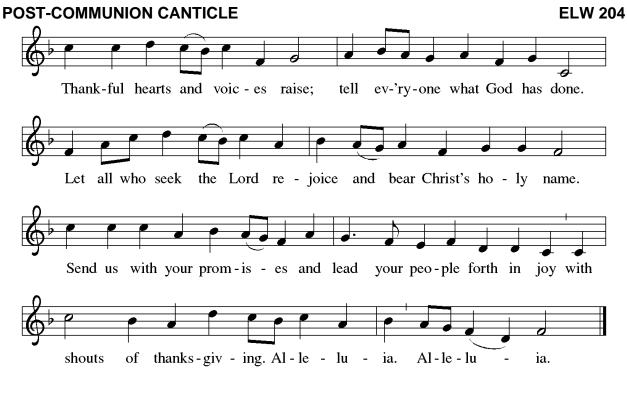
> A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section. The center contains purple grape juice. White wine is in the remainder of the tray.

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section. Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

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



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- A. Let us pray:
 - 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.

C. Amen.

BLESSING

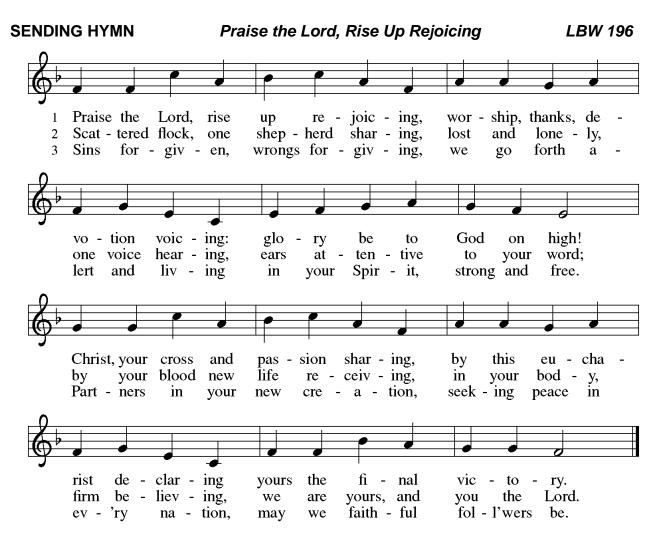
- P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P. The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.
- C. AMEN.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please stand.



Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt. Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt. Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

- A. Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
- C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

David Cherwien

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Sue Papera, Greeter Jack Martinez, Crucifer Fred Lewis, Liturgist & Reader Zulema Suarez, Prayers of Intercession Sue Papera, Altar Guild



Via Zoom Thursday, April 25th, at Noon

Resurrection to Ascension Readings & Connection link will be emailed



A BRIEF IN-PERSON CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024, AFTER MASS TO VOTE ON REPAIRS TO THE PARSONAGE & CHURCH BUILDING

PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); Carol Weber; Doris Baumann (Carol's mom); Katie Wolfe (Carol's cousin with vision issues); Darla Lambson (Carol's sister's sister-in-law, suffering from an aggressive form of leukemia); Brad Gohmann and his family (Carol's nephew's uncle-in-law with cancer); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom); Rose Davis (Surella's friend with cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's children); Leslyn Cooke; Melanie M. (Julie's friend); The cousin-in-law of Julie's coworker, undergoing rehab for injuries sustained in an automobile accident; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Arlene Rizzo (Sue's friend undergoing cancer treatments) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (Sue Papera's friend who has health concerns); Caleb (Sue's friend with mental health issues); Jenny L. (Sue's friend with health issues); Carol Mulvaney (Sue's friend with breast cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery, father of Nancy who does the payroll for Grace); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Beverly Philip (a friend of Janet's sister-in-law with severe dementia); Kathy O'Brien (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Bert Maltz (a friend of Janet's sister-in-law. Several health concerns); Michele Rusciano (a friend of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Dominick Capalba (Mary Ellen's 6 year old friend with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (Mary Ellen's sister with terminal lung cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department; John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Doris Feirer (a friend of the congregation); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Charlie and Mary Lewis (Fred's brother and sister-in-law with health concerns); Donna Maxwell with health concerns; James Mingo (Donna's grandson with health concerns); Arouss Darpinian (friend of the congregation with health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns); Mary Sue (health concerns): Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents); US citizens imprisoned in Russia: Paul Whelan (in prison for over six years) and Evan Gershkovich (a Wall Street Journalist detained since March 29, 2023); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine; Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan; Sudan; organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers, national and regional relief officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of any changes needed on the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109 Sunday, April 21, 2024

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC) Monday, April 22, 2024

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960 Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist

Thursday, April 25, 2024

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

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