

# GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1310 N. Center Street  
Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 53916

Church: 920-885-6482 | Preschool: 920-885-4317  
[www.goodshepherdbd.org](http://www.goodshepherdbd.org) | [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
April 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Welcome to Worship at Good Shepherd!**

It is our privilege to have you here today! We are especially delighted to welcome any guests who are with us. May the Holy Spirit bless your worship and fill your heart with peace, joy, and faith in your Savior Jesus Christ. Please introduce yourself, complete your Connect card, and worship with us again soon!

- Restrooms (with changing stations) are located in the hallway toward the gym, and the nursery is located right next to the sanctuary entrance.
- Children's bulletins, sermon notes sheets, digital offering cards, offering plates, and hand sanitizer are located on tables in the church entryway.
- If you have any questions about our congregation's ministries or facilities, please ask an usher for assistance. If you are looking for a church home or have questions about what we believe and teach, please speak to our pastor.

### **Theme of Today's Worship:**

**Resurrection Reality: The Living Lord Produces Fruits of Living Faith**

## **The Order of Service**

*Service of the Word ~ Christian Worship 1993, p. 38*

**(Sunday) Preschool Children Singing: God Is Always With Me**

**(Sunday) Children's Sermon**

♪ **The Opening Hymn: #709, Christ the Vine**

*The hymn is printed on p. 10 in the service folder.*

### **The Invocation**

**M(inister):** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

**C(ongregation):** And also with you.

# The Confession of Sins<sup>1</sup>

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## The Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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.



---

<sup>1</sup> Why do our services always begin with the Confession and Absolution? As stark as the truths presented in this section are, they are all-important for a proper understanding of our relationship with God. The Biblical reality is that our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2), but his forgiveness reconciles us to him (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). It would do us no good now or in eternity to deny our sins or pretend they don't exist. Rather, we come before God in honest repentance and faith, trusting that "whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

# The Word of God

## **The First Lesson: Acts 4:32-37**


*In the early church, as the apostles preached the resurrection of Christ, the living Lord produced the fruits of unity and generosity.*

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

## **Psalm of the Day: Psalm 63, CW:New Service Settings p. 24-26**

*The Soloist sings the first refrain and verses; the Congregation sings the following refrains.*



In the morn-ing I will sing, I will  
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to  
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

1. O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. **Refrain**
2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **Refrain**
3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **Refrain**

## **The Second Lesson: 1 John 3:18-24**

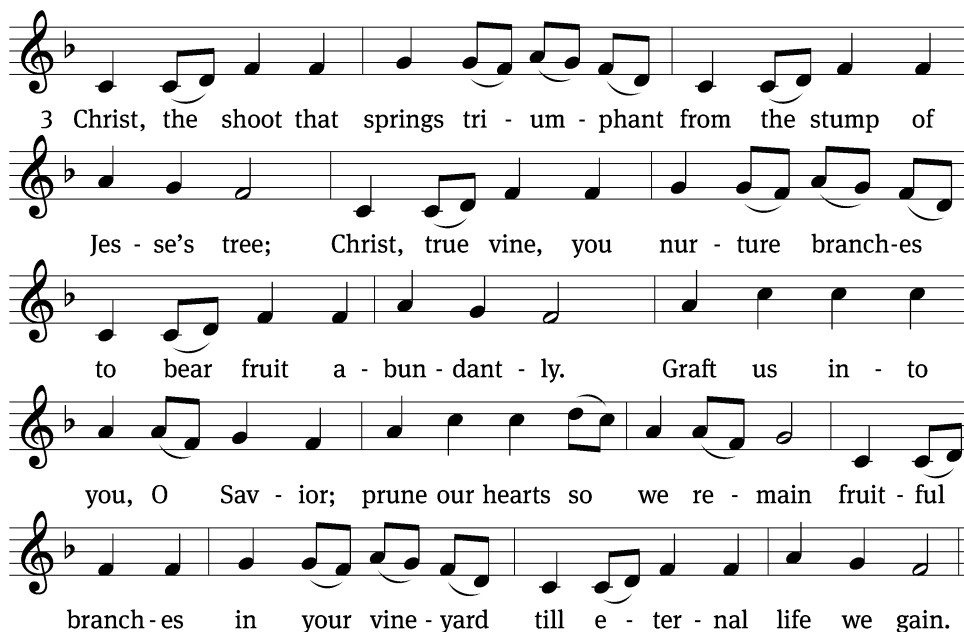
*St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.*

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that 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 keep 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> The one who keeps God's commands lives 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.

## **The Verse of the Day: John 15:5<sup>2</sup>**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Alleluia!

## **Hymn Response: #528, v. 3, Christ, the Word of God Incarnate**



3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant from the stump of  
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch-es  
to bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to  
you, O Sav - ior; prune our hearts so we re - main fruit - ful  
branch-es in your vine - yard till e - ter - nal life we gain.

<sup>2</sup> In anticipation of hearing the good news about Jesus, we say, "Alleluia!" (Hebrew for "Praise the LORD!") and speak a significant Scripture verse that highlights the importance of hearing the gospel message.

## **The Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8**

*Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of living faith.*

<sup>1</sup>“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, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are 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 done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

*After the reading of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## **The Hymn of the Day: #454, Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen**

*The hymn is printed on p. 11 in the service folder.*

## **The Sermon: John 15:1-8**

Remaining in the Vine

## **The Apostles' Creed<sup>3</sup>**

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

**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.**

---

<sup>3</sup> The Creed is a basic summary of the Gospel message, the “good news” of what the Triune God has done for us to save us: God the Father created us; God the Son redeemed us; God the Holy Spirit sanctifies (makes us holy in God’s sight) us through faith by the power of God’s Word and Sacraments.

**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.**

## **Thanksgiving**

### **The Offering**

*The members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church give offerings to show love and thanks to God for doing so much for them, as well as to support the Lord's work here in Beaver Dam and around the world. **If you have an offering to give, please place it in one of the plates at the doors to the sanctuary as you leave after the service. Thank you!***



*Scan this code to give a digital donation!*

### **♪ Offering Verse: CW93 #489, Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver**

*As the offering is brought forward, the Congregation will sing the verse together.*

**Lord, you love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand  
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.  
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true  
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to you.**

### **The Prayer of the Church<sup>4</sup>**

**M:** Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy during this Easter season, for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds. Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**M:** By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

---

<sup>4</sup> Here the congregation prays in response to the sermon and themes of the day, as well as about specific joys and troubles in our church, community, nation, and around the world.

M: In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love. Direct their eyes to your empty tomb and ease their pain by reminding them that their loved ones will one day rise again. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts. Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind. *[We pray especially for...]* Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise them and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

M: Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and remain in us by faith, that we may live as branches in the Vine. Sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer<sup>5</sup>**

**C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

---

<sup>5</sup> When the disciples asked Jesus' how to pray, he responded by teaching them this model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4). Primarily focusing throughout on spiritual needs rather than physical needs, we close our prayer with a "doxology" (a phrase of praise) which shows trust that God can and will do all we ask.



## ♪ **Hymn: #729, Son of God, Eternal Savior**

*The hymn is printed on p. 12 in the service folder.*

### **The Closing Prayer**

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### **The Lord's Blessing**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*



## ♪ **The Closing Hymn: #595, Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing**

*The hymn is printed on p. 13 in the service folder.*

### **WELS Connection**



*Unless otherwise indicated, copyrighted materials used for this worship service are covered under One License #A-728837 and CCLI #20945641 & #20945658.*

*Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

## Hymn #709, Christ the Vine



1 I long to serve my Sav - ior, to seek what's good and right,  
2 There came, with grace un - spar - ing, a vine from heav'n a - bove,  
3 And so I'll serve my Sav - ior with pow'r that he pro - vides,



to trust and nev - er wa - ver, to walk in truth and light.  
its branch - es meant for bear - ing the fruits of self - less love.  
for he, my blest Re - deem - er, with - in my soul a - bides.



But con - duct pure and ho - ly re - quires a pow'r not mine;  
This vine is Christ who of - fered his life up - on a tree;  
The fruit of self - less giv - ing will grow by God's de - sign



a branch is fruit - ful on - ly when an - chored in a vine.  
for all my sin he suf - fered and made a branch of me.  
as I, the branch, keep liv - ing by faith in Christ the vine.

# Hymn #454, Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es; life in the  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent: death put a -  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for -  
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; break - ing our bread, giv - ing us  
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; heav - en to earth, Christ to the  
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be  
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, riv - er of life, saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
peo - ple, gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
an - gels, sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

# Hymn #729, Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and  
2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's  
3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,  
sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in  
sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or  
free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the  
hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your  
sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its  
sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards  
will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.  
crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.  
of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

# Hymn #595, Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.  
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

## Sunday School Memory Work for April

Acts 5:29: We must obey God rather than human beings!

John 14:6: I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

# Our Gifts to Jesus

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

General Fund	\$ 3,534.38
Direct Deposit (4/14 & 4/21)	\$ 1,015.00
Plate	\$ 286.00
<hr/>	
Total	\$ 4,835.38

Missions \$ 545.92

Debt Fund	\$ 10.00
Mixed Choir	\$ 5.00
Church Repair Fund	\$ 85.00
Memorials	\$ 670.00

## Memorials

In memory of Ann Schmidt

\$500 from Ken Schmidt

\$20 from Jackie Hartfiel

\$150 in memory of Wally Nelson

## May Usher Team

Captains: Steve Miller & David Storhoff

David Bradley

Lucas Bradley

Ty Letto

Ken Gertsch

Joe Kierstyn

Nick Reichert

- 1) **WELS Connection:** After each service this week, we will watch this month's WELS Connection.
- 2) **May Calendar, *Forward in Christ*, & *Meditations Available:*** Check the counter in the narthex if you'd like to get copies of your own, or check the Google Calendar link on our website!
- 3) **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee:** We have begun the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Good Shepherd's existence! We are looking forward to officially celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 (tentative date), and we are looking for interested individuals who would like to plan special events and commemorative festivities. Is that something you would like to be a part of? Contact Pastor Reichert or Curt Gruenewald.
- 4) **Culver's Share Night:** Culver's of Beaver Dam will be donating a portion of their dine-in and drive-through sales from 5:00-8:00pm on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to the Preschool. Culver's will donate 10-15% percent of the sales to the Preschool. Proceeds will help purchase equipment for the new Preschool play area. Maximize your support for the Preschool by purchasing a Culver's gift card at the SCRIP table. \$10 & \$25 will be available. This will provide an additional 10% for the Preschool. Culver's cards will be available at the SCRIP table each Sunday and on Communion Wednesdays in April. Come to support the Preschool and enjoy some fellowship!
- 5) **Church Work Day:** On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we are looking to hold our annual spring cleaning day at church beginning at 9am. (May 18<sup>th</sup> will be our backup date.) There will be outdoor and indoor projects. Anyone is welcome to come and help – please bring a rake or some yard tools!
- 6) **WELS Seniors Dinner:** Area seniors 55 and older are invited to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have a potluck dinner in the basement at noon. After the meal we will have a devotion, as well as a presentation by retired Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary professor John Brenner, who will speak about the seminary through the years. All those 55 and older are welcome.

## **Last Week's Use of the Means of Grace**

Wednesday – 25

Sunday – 174

YouTube Service Views – 24+

## **The Week of April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>**

<b>- 4/28, Sunday</b>	9:00am	Worship
	9:30am	St. Stephen's Radio Service (WBEV-FM 95.3)
	10:15am	Adult Bible Class (A Light for My Path) Youth Sunday School
	1:00-3:00pm	Confirmation Parents Meeting & Examination Practice
<b>- 4/29, Monday</b>	5:00-8:00pm	Good Shepherd Culver's Share Night
	6:00pm	Mixed Choir Practice
<b>- 4/30, Tuesday</b>	6:30pm	Adult Bible Class (Psalms)
<b>- 5/1, Wednesday</b>	2:00pm	Hillside Manor Service
	3:30pm	Public School Examination/Confirmation Practice
	7:00pm	Worship with Communion (SCRIP)
<b>- 5/2, Thursday</b>	10:00am	Adult Bible Class (Whole Bible Project)
<b>- 5/3, Friday</b>	1:30pm	St. Stephen's Worship at Good Shepherd
<b>- 5/4, Saturday</b>	9:00am	Church Work Day
<b>- 5/5, Sunday</b>	9:00am	Worship with Communion (SCRIP)
	9:30am	St. Stephen's Radio Service (WBEV-FM 95.3)
	10:15am	Adult Bible Class (A Light for My Path) Youth Sunday School
	1:00-2:30pm	Public School Examination/Confirmation Practice

### **Contact Us**

<b>Pastor Mark Reichert</b>	920-885-6482 (office) 920-306-3060 (cell)	mark.d.reichert@gmail.com
<b>Pastor Dennis Meier</b> <b>Pastor Joel Jaeger</b>		
<b>Kim Steinberg,</b> <b>Preschool Director</b>	920-885-4317 (office)	gslpreschool@gmail.com
<b>Margie Vick,</b> <b>Administrative Assistant</b>	920-885-6482 (office)	gsbdoffice@gmail.com