



Reality Check

Why Do You Do What You Do?

NO MIDDLE GROUND:
Love-The Christian's Reality Check 1John 3:16

April 21, 2024

**The Lutheran Church & School of Messiah
840 N. 11th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-245-2838**

Good Shepherd Sunday

The 4th Sunday of Easter

(April 21, 2024)

Sharing of Christ's Peace

Confession and Absolution

The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. If you would like to come up for a blessing, feel free to do so. Simply cross your arms over your chest to let the Pastor know you would like a blessing. Thank you.

Stand as you are able

466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

sts. 1, ref. 3, 5

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom. Refrain

ref Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!

3 The angel said to them, “Do not fear!
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
Only the grave cloths are lying there.” Refrain

5 Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. Refrain

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010
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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit *Psalm 23 (KJV); antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoresth my soul:

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

for thou *art* with me;

thy rod and thy staff

they comfort me.

**Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:**

Thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**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.**

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Kyrie

186

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us. [Mark 10:27]**

Gloria in Excelsis

187

P Glory be to God on high:

C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *[Luke 2:14; John 1:29]***

Salutation and Collect of the Day [2 Timothy 4:22]

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the 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 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this

man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Messiah Honor Choir: The 23rd Psalm

Stand as you are able

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:11–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not

own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

*Creed [“Creed” comes from the Latin *credo*, which means “I believe.” From the time of Pentecost, the Ancient Christian Church has confessed a creed. The Early Christian Church has always believed, taught, and confessed these Scriptural teachings. This is why we are called a Creational Church.]*

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Kids' Time

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sermon NO MIDDLE GROUND: Love—The Christian's Reality Check

1John 3:16

Stand as you are able

Offertory [Psalm 51:10-12]

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit
from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy
free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church [1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. If you would like to come up for a blessing, feel free to do so. Simply cross your arms over your chest to let the Pastor know you would like a blessing. Thank you.

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus [Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9-13]

196

**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.**

[*The Conclusion for the Lord's Prayer is not in Matthew or Luke. The Conclusion is from 1Chronicles 29:10-11, King David's prayer in the assembly.*]

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

[*Matthew 26:26-38; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*]

Pax Domini [Latin for Peace of the Lord; John 20:19] *LSB 197*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei [John 1:29]

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution

864 Shepherd of Tender Youth

641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Stand as you are able

Nunc Dimittis: [Latin for Now Dismiss—Song of Simeon; Luke 2:29-32]

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving [Psalm 107:1]

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

...

C **Amen.**

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

[Aaronic Benediction Numbers 6:24-26]

Benediction [Latin for God's "Good Speak" to you]

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Remain standing as you are able for final hymn

740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Acknowledgments

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Preacher: Rev. Micheal Redeker

DCE: Jonathan Peterson

Organist: Richard Scott

Acolytes: NEED VOLUNTEERS

Elders: John McDowell, Duane Lofton

Ushers: Bill Buxman, Dave Gruner

Corwin Miller, John O'Connor

Greeters: NEED VOLUNTEERS

PRAYER REQUESTS— *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

Prayer requests for you, family with permission, or by a pastor, may be sent to Beth Weber at weber4342@gmail.com

Messiah's Prayer List

Continued health and healing: *Art Arendall, Chris Ballard, Ralph Bickel, Mary Ann Bradshaw, Peter Chaney, Darlene & Darrel Clark, Lucy Clemmer, Stephen Hildebrand, Doug Johnson, Jimmie Kenner and family, Emogene Kukuk, Carrie Lamgo, Illona Rennels, Bob Rennick, Dorothy Roberts, Esther Schlauger, Karen Skoog, Shane Walz, Romaine Webb, Jeff Vagneur, Gary.*

Fighting serious diseases: Sharon Breshears, Bill Brodak, Denise Currie, Courtney Grieger, Misty Hannah, Steve Kaskus, Shane Larsen, Anna Marie Mautz, Barb Moore, John Moseman Sr., Melani Perschbacher, Debra Proctor, Shirley Robinson, Diana Walche

Continue to fight cancer: Ralph Bickel, Karen Caldwell, Tyler, Rhonda Covington, James Hamleton, Les Hawkins, Leslie Hendricks, Barbara Huff, Mike Jerome, Chuck Magner, Marshall Mead, Walter Netzke, Lela Ottman, Amy Poulin, Loretta Siilata, Skogen, Sue Stepanek.

Home Hospice Care:

Called Home:

Serving in the military: Jake Bradshaw, Brian Carbone, Madison Lozano, Jessie Mello, Karen and James Moore, Caleb Schmidt, Brandon & Kayt Soine, Eric Stahly.

Messiah Lutheran members

Messiah Lutheran faculty & staff

Messiah Lutheran Church/School -Dan Schield 3rd & 4th Class

Mavericks of Messiah: *Continue to pray for the college students especially here at CMU.*

Missionaries: Rev. Tim Norton to the Navajo Nation and **Rev Dr. Karl Heimer**, Ysleta, El Paso Texas.

Celebrating Birthdays:

21st - Scarlett Messenger, Orrin Dimmick

22nd - Jennifer Mello

23rd - Emogene Kukuk, Doug Haynes

25th - Bonnie Stewart

27th - Paul Yutzy, Marion Kieck

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries:
John & Ovis Kraft (66)

CALENDAR FOR THE Week of April 21, 2024

Sunday	9:00am	Worship, Facebook Live
	10:30am	Fellowship, Coffee, Bible Study - FH
	10:30am	Battle Ready 7th/8th- Library
	10:30am	Kids Connection - Ext Day
	10:30am	Young Adult Bible Study - MPR
	6:00pm	Sipping/Search Men's Bible Study
Monday	9:00am	Finance Meeting- Library
	3:15pm	Faculty Meeting- MPR
	6:00pm	Battle Ready 9th/10th- MPR
Tuesday	7:00am	Men's Bible Study- FH
	9:00am	Quilting Ladies- FH
	9:00am	Office Staff Meeting- Library
	10:00am	School Xcel Electricity Presentation
	7:00pm	Adult Choir
Wednesday	8:30am	Chapel
	9:30am	Bible Study- FH
	6:00pm	Church, Communion
Thursday	9:00am	Preschool Chapel
	6:30pm	Handbells
	6:30pm	Bible Study- Zoom
Friday		
Saturday	9:00am	Women's Bible Study- MPR
	4:00pm	PTA Dinner Fundraiser/ Auction
Sunday	9:00am	Worship, Communion, Facebook Live
	10:30am	Fellowship, Coffee, Bible Study - FH
	10:30am	Battle Ready 7th/8th- Library
	10:30am	Kids Connection - Ext Day
	10:30am	Young Adult Bible Study - MPR
	11:30am	Strategic Planning Committee
	6:00pm	Sipping/Search Men's Bible Study

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF April 21, 2024

INCOME FOR THE PERIOD: April 10th thru April 16th

Weekly Donations \$24,692.09 Month to Date \$74,596.87

Weekly Need \$21,278.00 Monthly Need \$85,112.00

The popular Graystone Restaurant- In Eckert takes a while to get to but it's worth the drive. **BUT! Now** you can enjoy their brisket or chicken without the drive! Messiah Lutheran School is having a fundraising dinner and Graystone is catering it. **Today is your last chance** to purchase tickets in the **Narthex** for the delicious dinner, on **April 27th** from **4:30pm to 8pm**. As part of the dinner, we will have a **silent auction**.

Silent Auction- Come and **bid on the many items** we'll have at our auction. You don't have to order dinner to join the fun. Invite your **friends & neighbors** to join you and spread the festivities.

Help Needed- We need volunteers to help with **Messiah's Got Talent** Set-up. We will set up the stage, risers, instruments, and chairs on Sunday, **April 28th** at **10:30am**. Please meet **Dona Ramsey** in the **GYM**. **Thank you!** MGT will be **May 2nd** at **6pm** please come join us!

Detectives Needed (Columbo Wannabes)- Messiah School is beginning an **Alumni Association** of our graduates from over the last **42+** years. We have a partial list assembled because of the efforts of **Arliss Bridgett and Beth Weber**. **We need volunteers** 1) to track down the rest of the graduates; 2) get their contact information via social media or wherever. If you're interested in this detective endeavor, please **contact the office or Pastor Redecker**.

Saturday Morning Basketball- All are welcome to join a pickup game in the gym each **Saturday at 6:30am**. Highschool-ish age and older. We play for fun and exercise. Contact **Joe Diedrich** to be added to the text thread (in case we need to postpone) or just show up! **303-526-6037**.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study- We will continue our study in the book of Romans Chapter 12 at **7am**.

The Ladies Guild- A **sincere thank you** to everyone for all the support for the mission projects through the **Bakeless Bake Sale**. We are still accepting donations through the end of **April**.

It's been 20+ years- of offering up prayers for our friends and loved ones. I have come to the realization that change is good and now is the time for the change of my offering up our prayers to our Faithful Savior. As of **June 1**, or before, I will turn over the Prayer Ministry to whomever volunteers to continue this worthy ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church & School. **Please contact the church office** if you are interested. I am willing to turn over the lists of our Prayer Ministers to the office and help transition to the next person. I've thought about this for a long time and now is the time. **Thank you for your willingness** to serve in this capacity as an important ministry of our church. - **Beth Weber**

Vacation Bible School - Volunteers Needed!!! Messiah's VBS will be **June 10 - 14, 2024**. This program is for **ages 3 through elementary students**. **Volunteers of older youth and adults are needed**. We'll need **group leaders, station leaders and plenty of donations!** Keep watch for a supply list to be posted in the **Narthex**. Please contact **Amelia Everhart** if you are interested in volunteering.

Latte Challenge- to save the **Siberian Lutheran Seminary**. The Rocky Mountain District voted to donate **\$150,000** to this cause. Messiah's goal is **\$7,760** which is **\$12.50 per member**. You can put your donation in the offering. **As of March 19th, \$2,349.00 has been donated! Thank you, Messiah!**

Rib City BBQ & Ribs- Earn while you eat! Rib City **donates 5% of your food bill**, at all three locations, all year long! Ask your server about **Show Us Your Colors**. They will stamp your receipt. Bring that receipt to the **office**, & Messiah gets 5%!

Thrivent Cards- The office is keeping a **private list** of Thrivent Card Holders. Since the cards can be used **twice a year**, we would record when they were used so we would not be asking you to use your card again during that period. Thank you, **Deb Fenske**.

Thrivent Choice Dollars- Thank you, Messiah has received many of the choice dollars. **Please** keep us in mind for the future. You have 2 easy options to direct your Choice Dollars: Online at www.thrivent.com or by calling **800-847-4836**.

Raise Right- Physical or digital gift cards that you may use or give to someone else. This is an **ongoing fundraiser that benefits the church and school**. The company donates a portion of the purchase. See the booth in the Narthex, speak with **Lisa Moore or DCE Jonathan** or visit <https://www.raiseright.com/>, click on sign up and enter code **59FDEBF565842**.

LCMS Foundation Gift Planning- Gift Planning creates solutions for donors. A good plan can help to navigate challenging family dynamics. Blended families have become a reality in our culture. That blend requires some very careful planning to ensure inheritance distributions are appropriate. Your Messiah Gift Planning Counselor can help you visualize your distributions, keeping things as simple as possible, all the while responding to the challenges of your situation. Contact **Jason Jones** at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at **(970) 988-0305**.

Messiah's Radio Ministry-Sunday mornings at **8:30am – 9:00am** on radio station **1100AM/KNZZ**. It is followed by **The Lutheran Hour at 9:00am**