

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Cocoa and Granada Avenues Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033 (717) 533-2467

Sunday, April 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

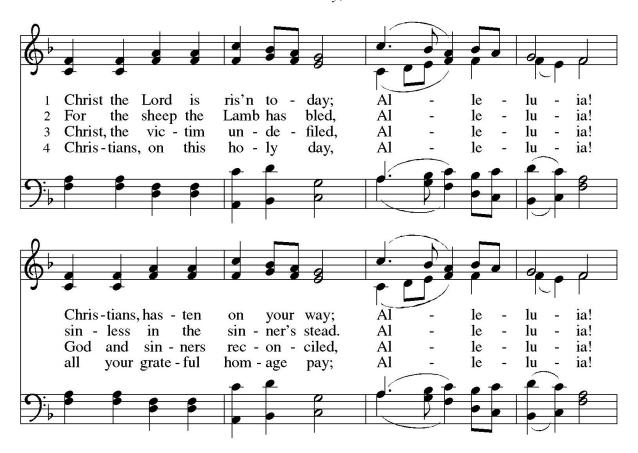
All: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

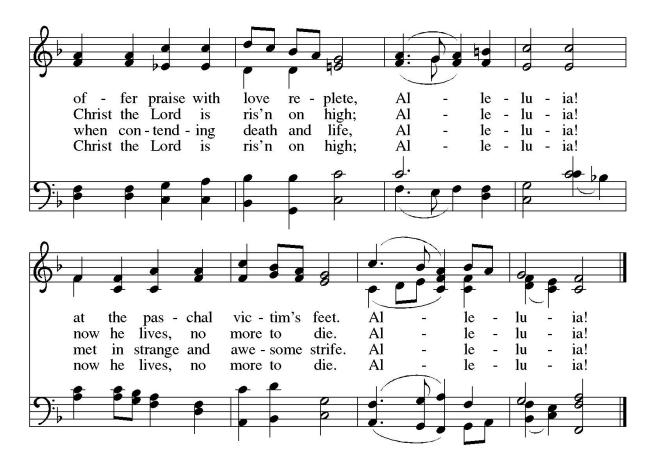
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! ELW 369



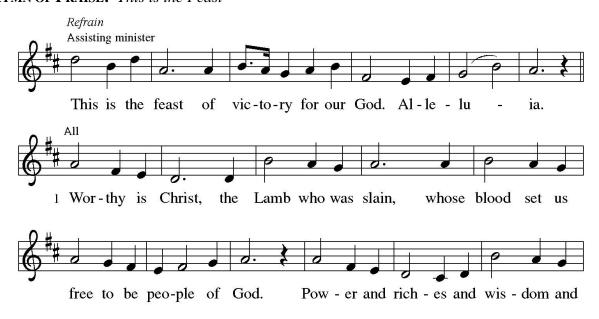


PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: This is the Feast





has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

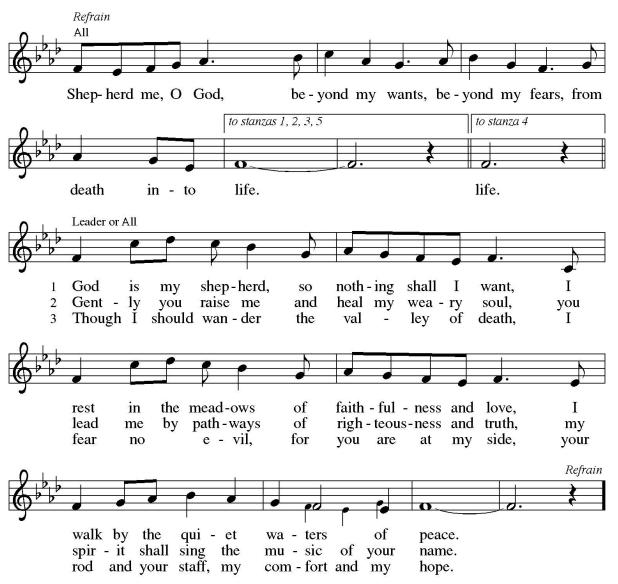
FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

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.

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."

Psalm: ELW 780 (All sing the refrain and verses)





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1986 GIA 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.

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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia







Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.* I know my own and my | own know me.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY 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.

[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."

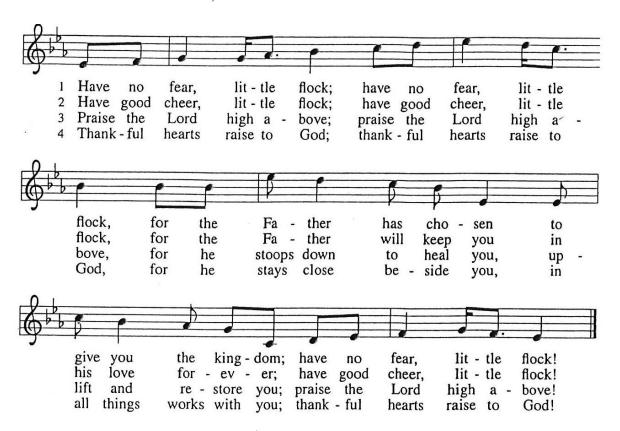
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. All:

SERMON

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Have No Fear, Little Flock...... ELW 764



Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4 Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishine House LITTLE FLOCK 66766

NICENE CREED

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please respond after each petition.

P: God of Grace,
All: hear our prayer.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING OF PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

TABLE SETTING SONG: Come to the Table, Sing & Rejoice Choir Amanda Meisenheimer

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plates at the entrance to worship or in the narthex.

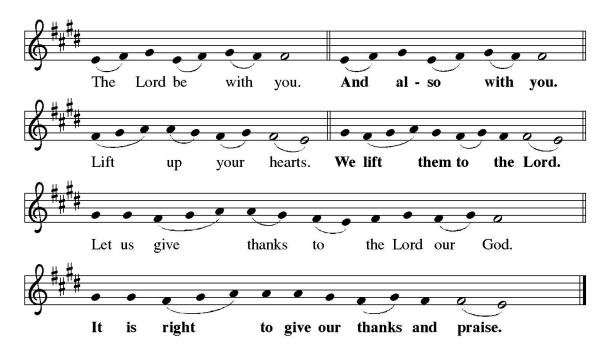
OFFERTORY PRAYER:

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.

All: Amen.

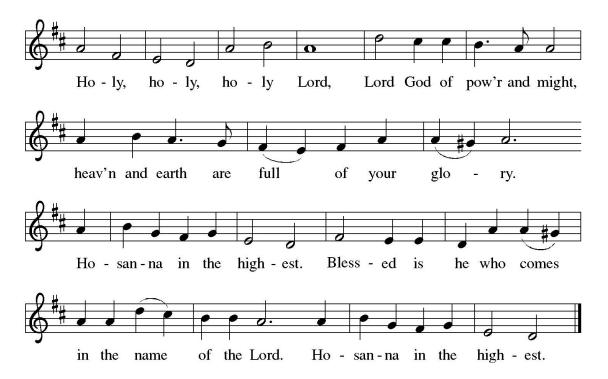


GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



PREFACE

P:And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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,

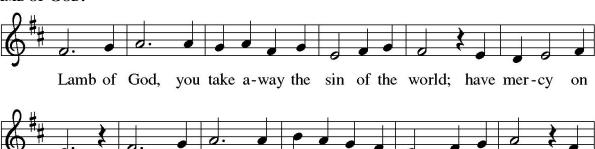
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

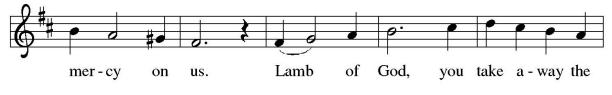
P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of bread. Come and eat at God's table.

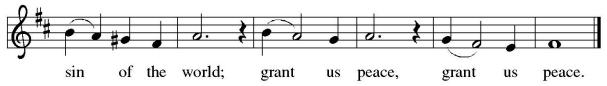
All: Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD:



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





COMMUNION MUSIC: (Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew)

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ELW 484

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: 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.

All Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing ELW 544



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.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

FLOWERS AND BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Ray and Gretchen Cameron by Dennis and Betsy Phillippy.

SERVING TODAY

Reader:	Colleen Nielsen
Assisting Minister:	JoEllen Myers
Communion Assistants:	Susan Bianchi and Kendra Ruhl
Crucifer:	Else Nielsen
Torchbearers:	Sydney Keeler and Lucy Paul
Livestream:	Kirk Sponaugle



Dear Lord Jesus,

When You walked upon this earth, You healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and raised the dead. Now we come to You on behalf of those who are in need today and pray that You would send them Your healing power. Hear our prayer for Your name's sake. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Prayer Concerns: Roberta Anderson, Bob Bettleyon, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Carole Bowman, Dennis Buchanan (Mary Ann Kelly's cousin), Kinleigh Connelly (friend of the Eby family), Karen Savage Critchfield (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Theo Epitropoulos, Suzy Epler, Janice Geiling, Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunhams), Bonnie Hess (friend of the Weavers), Glenn Hoffa, Ben Housman (husband of Anita Housman), Herb Huebner, Mary Huebner, Jennifer Johnson (cousin of Derek Dunham), Nancy Miller, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Dona Pastuck, Tom Rieger, Michelle Spaeder (friend of Karen Kline), Pete Stone, Bob Trump, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Mike Welty, Don Yerger.

DAILY PRAYERS

Alex Chubb, Elaine Chubb, Virginia Frank, Rosa Vena Homisak (Bob Homisak's mother), Dennis Lubold, Ed Schaeffer, Bob Sibert, Irene Turzai, Melissa West (friend of Susan Bianchi), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all of our Homebound members.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, Patrick Stewart, Tory Young

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at <a href="https://https



Thank you for joining us for worship today in-person and through livestreaming.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite all people, as well as young children who are not yet receiving the Sacrament to come forward and receive a blessing. Please ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free option. At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. At his table Christ grants us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. *May your hearts be opened, and your lives made new by his gracious love*. Please give your completed communion card to the usher during communion.

Holy Communion distribution today: The usher will guide you down the center aisle. Prepackaged Communion elements with grape juice are available on the small table. If your preference is regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver trays. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant on either side with regular wine. There will also be one assistant with non-alcoholic wine. Stand or kneel as you are able and remain at the rail for as long as you desire.

Communion Elements are available for "Live Stream" worship at home. Please contact the church office at 717-533-2467 or by email at <a href="https://h

The in-person church office hours this week are Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM—2 PM. On Friday staff will work remotely. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org

<u>Sunday School Information:</u> Children's Sunday School meets on Sundays from 9:00am-9:45am in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). An informational flyer with more details is available in the church narthex. We're excited to use the <u>Godly Play</u> curriculum this year! Confirmation Sunday School for Grades 6-9 meets on Sundays from 9am-9:45am in the youth room. Adult Discussion group meets at 9:00-9:45am in room #16 (near the restrooms). Please consider joining this time of learning and faith sharing.

Sing and Rejoice Choir. All youth are again invited to participate in singing during the service this Sunday, today, April 21, and next Sunday, April 28. The song, *Come to the Table*, will be sung right before Communion. Singers are asked to sit in the chairs at the left front of the church, directly across from the choir. Copies of the words to the song will be available on the chairs for any youth who would like to join us even if they have not been able to make our practices.

The Family Fellowship Faith Hike at Wildwood Park Nature Trail is THIS Afternoon from 1:30 – 4pm. Enjoy an afternoon walk of faith and fellowship with your church brothers and sisters. We will do a hike around Wildwood Lake (3.1 miles), interjected with inspirational prayer stops along the way. We will meet at Wildwood at 1:30pm in the parking outside the Olewine Nature Center. Note: This is a shine only event! Please check your e-mail today to make sure it's happening, if the weather looks questionable. For all other details about this event please talk to Peter Fox or pick up a flyer around the church.

Birthday Blessings! Nila Wiley will celebrate a 90+ birthday this month on April 30th. You can send birthday wishes to her at: 100 Cottage Drive, Apt. 114, Palmyra, PA 17078. Happy Birthday, Nila!

Please send articles and announcements for the Newsletter to Anita Housman, our Communications/IT Specialist. Please send articles to her at aahousman2@gmail.com. She is always gathering announcements and articles for the monthly newsletter. Just a reminder – submit articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month.

Many thanks for your generous donations! We continuously express our thanks to all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving which allows us to continue to operate valuable ministries and pay for the ongoing bills at Holy Trinity. The Simply Giving program offers automatic withdrawals from your bank account or charges to a credit card; donated through our website (htluth.org) by clicking on the 'Give Now" button; donated by downloading the Mobile App "GivePlus Church" (be sure to select Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity) or by taking a picture of the QR code. Please contact the church if you have any questions about any of these methods.



Readers, Greeters and Flower Deliverers for April and May are needed to greet people as they come into church and deliver flowers after the service on Sunday. Readers are needed to read the 1st and 2nd reading and the Psalm. The lists are available on the bulletin board. Please sign up today or contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

New Spring **Devotionals** and large print **Christ in Our Home** are in the narthex. Please take one!

Holy Trinity Staff

Senior Pastor	Rev. Cindy A. Brommer (<u>PastorBrommer@comcast.net</u>)
Director of Music Ministries/Organist	Alan L. Hair (<u>hairlooms2@aol.com</u>)
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Peter A. Fox (youthg@yahoo.com)
Director of Faith Formation	Colleen Nielsen (<u>NielsenC@mhs-pa.org</u>)
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Property Manager	
IT/Communication Specialist	
Treasurer	Stephanie Gross (<u>stephaniegross@comcast.net</u>)
Giving Secretary	Peg Huebner (peghuebner@comcast.net)
Membership Secretary	Elizabeth Stuart (<u>estuart@path1tv.com</u>)



1 JOHN 3:18, NRSV

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives for racial equity and to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.