

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hope Emphasis Kickoff

April 25, 2021 - 8:15 & 10:30 AM



**Living Springs 2021**

**Moving Forward in Faith to Be ...**

**A CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE, LIVING BEACON**

**OF GOD'S HOPE FOR ALL!**

*With God's help & the Spirit's power,  
we will strive to be a Body of Believers who:*

**All are more deeply FORMED & GROUNDED IN GOD'S HOPE;**

**All are more fully EQUIPPED WITH HOPING-COPING SKILLS for life;**

**All are GOD'S ACTIVE HOPE-AGENTS in our daily, spiritual, communal lives.**




*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.*

**Living Springs Lutheran Church**

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

[www.livingspringscolumbia.org](http://www.livingspringscolumbia.org)

 @livingspringscolumbia

 Living Springs Lutheran Church

## PRELUDE

*We pause to "be still and know that God is God" as we prepare our hearts & minds for worship.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS—JUSTICE MINISTRY TEMPLE TALK

*All members of the Living Springs family, be sure to REGISTER today for our Justice Ministry Nehemiah Action on Monday, April 26 @ 6:30 (virtual via Zoom).*

**Use this link (or scan QR code) to register for the Nehemiah Action**

<https://forms.gle/5HwTh6xfKHweBAC37>



### + 2021 LIVING SPRINGS HOPE EMPHASIS +

*The council president brings to the altar the sheets of prayerful discernment from our annual congregation planning retreat, by which the Spirit spoke to us our theme of Hope for this ministry year. Then, the council president leads us in reading our LS Hope Emphasis.*

*We stand as able*

### CONGREGATIONAL READING OF HOPE EMPHASIS (from our LS Hope Cards)

*A Bell of Hope is sounded at the altar as the Paschal candle (sign of Resurrection & New Life) is lit.*

President: As a congregation of Christ's disciples, we are:

**People: moving forward in faith to be a creative, innovative LIVING BEACON OF GOD'S HOPE for all!**

Pastors: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### GATHERING SONG

*"The Lord's My Shepherd"*

*We turn and face the processional cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 <i>The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.<br/>he makes me down to lie<br/>in pastures green; he leadeth me<br/>the quiet waters by.<br/>He leadeth me, he leadeth me<br/>the quiet waters by.</i></p> <p>2 <i>My soul he doth restore again,<br/>and me to walk doth make<br/>within the paths of righteousness,<br/>e'en for his own name's sake;<br/>within the paths of righteousness,<br/>e'en for his own name's sake.</i></p> | <p>5 <i>Goodness and mercy all my life<br/>shall surely follow me,<br/>and in God's house forevermore<br/>my dwelling-place shall be;<br/>and in God's house forevermore<br/>my dwelling-place shall be.</i></p> |
|--|--|

The Lord's My Shepherd; Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter;  
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

### APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Pastor: 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. **Amen.**

*We are seated*

## + FORMED & GROUNDED IN GOD'S HOPE +

Leader: With God's help & the Spirit's power, we strive to be a Body of Believers who:

**People: All are more deeply formed & grounded in God's hope!**

*The Bell of Hope is sounded, as a Candle of Hope is lit at the baptismal font.*

### HOPE SHARING MOMENT

#### "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD" MOMENT

*We spend a moment in silence, reviewing the "Hope Menu Items" on the back of our Hope Cards. We ask for the Spirit's tug—and add one item to the front of our cards—as a personal focus of growing deeper in God's hope in the weeks ahead.*

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*We stand as able*

Pastor: Formed & grounded in God's hope through these waters of grace, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Pastor: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*We are seated*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 only)

Adam Woodruff

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to Sanctuary worship, to the Parking Lot Worship, or drop them off at the church office. Easter season collection is for Mental Health ministries.*

#### FIRST READING

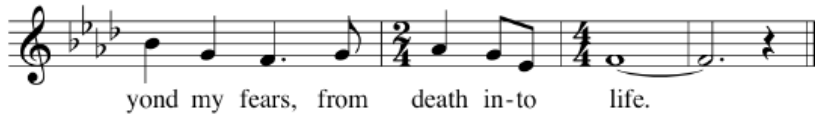
*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

Lector: A reading from Acts.

*The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:5-12)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God!**



1. *God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace.*
2. *Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteousness & truth, My spirit shall sing the music of your name.*
3. *Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side, Your rod & your staff, my comfort & my hope.*

Shepherd Me, O God; Text & Music: Marty Haugen;  
Text & Music © 1986 GIA Publications.

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## SECOND READING

*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.*

Lector: A reading from 1 John.

*We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And 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. All 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. (1 John 3:16-24)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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." (John 10:11-18)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We are seated*

## HOPE REFLECTION

Rev. Eric Fink

### + EQUIPPED WITH HOPING-COPING SKILLS FOR LIFE +

Leader: With God's help & the Spirit's power, we strive to be a Body of Believers who:

**People: All are more fully equipped with God's hoping-coping skills for life!**

*The Bell of Hope is sounded, as a candle of Hope is lit at the pulpit.*

## HOPE SHARING MOMENT

### "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD" MOMENT

*We spend a moment in silence, reviewing the "Hope Menu Items" on the back of our Hope Cards. We ask for the Spirit's tug—and add a 2nd item to the front of our cards—as a personal focus of growing deeper in God's hope in the weeks ahead.*

## NICENE CREED *We stand as able*

Pastor: Continually equipped with God's hoping-coping skills for life, through the Word, Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit, we lift up our voices and confess our faith:

**People: 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.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assist: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*+ A brief silence +*

Assist: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: Guiding Shepherd, you call each of us to do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you. Guide our justice ministry as we seek to bring hope to this community in regard to issues of mental health, education, housing, and community gun violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. We pray especially for: *Nancy Baldwin; Ann Lynn Caughman; LaTynia Taylor; Peter Creighton; Kyle Dymont; Inge Lowery; Delores Harmon; Ed Brennan; Debbie Smith; Charles Kauffman; Margaret Blank; Bunie Talbert; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Wilma Bracey; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you, *especially the evangelist Mark, whom we commemorate today.* Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assist: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **SHARING OF PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We blow our car horns or extend a hand toward others, sharing the words, "Peace be with you."*

### **OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN**

*Offerings may be placed in the offering plates in the sanctuary communion line or the outside welcome table, as well as dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.*

Google Play



App Store



### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC DIALOGUE & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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.

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**People: 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**

Pastor: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*ALL ARE WELCOME to partake of Holy Communion, for we believe this is the Lord's Meal (not ours) and open to Christians of any background, denomination, or tradition. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in the full presence of Christ in, with, and under the elements. Children are welcome to receive communion at as early age as desired (parent may consult with pastor), and communion instruction is provided as scheduled. For children (or others) not receiving the elements, a special blessing is offered. OUTSIDE - Please remain in place. Communion will be brought to you on the lawn or at your vehicle. INSIDE - Ushers will direct you to the front. Please maintain **6-ft spacing** while waiting/returning.*

*ELEMENTS: During Covid, we continue to temporarily use sanitary-packaged individual communion elements. The wafer is located under the plastic film on top of the sealed cup - you can pull back the plastic film for the wafer, and then peel off the aluminum seal to open the cup. Feel free to either eat the wafer or drink the grape juice first, depending on which is easier for you to open. Separate individually-packaged GLUTEN-FREE wafers are also available. \*For INSIDE WORSHIP, we also have available an individual wine glass & traditional wafer at a separate station. Please commune at the station and return the plastic holder/glass to the container provided at the table.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS

### *"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"*

#### *Refrain*

*You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.*

- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
they know and heed his voice;  
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,  
we follow and rejoice. Refrain*

- 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity. Refrain*

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart; Text: Omer Westendorf; Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz;  
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### *"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"*

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne!*

#### *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less; Text: Edward Mote  
Music: John B. Dykes*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**Pastor:** The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**People:** Amen.

### **+ GOD'S ACTIVE HOPE-AGENTS +**

**Leader:** With God's help & the Spirit's power, we strive to be a Body of Believers who:

**People:** All are God's active hope-agents in our daily, spiritual, communal lives.

*The Bell of Hope is sounded, as a candle of Hope is lit at the exit to the sanctuary.*



## HOPE SHARING MOMENT

### “BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD” MOMENT

*We spend a moment in silence, reviewing the “Hope Menu Items” on the back of our Hope Cards. We ask for the Spirit’s tug—and add a 3rd item to the front of our cards—as a personal focus of growing deeper in God’s hope in the weeks ahead.*

### SENT FORTH IN HOPE

*We stand as able*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world: formed & grounded in God’s hope, blessed with God’s hoping-coping skills for life, sent forth to be God’s active hope-agents for all. Go in peace! You have a story to tell—God is love!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### DEPARTING BENEDICTION—MOMENT OF PERSONAL HOPE BLESSING

*As the sending song(s) are sung, the usher will guide you to exit. At the doors and parking lot exit, the pastors will be stationed to give you a personal blessing. **Privately share just 1 Hope Item that you placed on the front of your Hope Card.** The Pastor will then offer you this blessing: Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you ... to be a living beacon of God’s hope for all! **Amen.***

### SENDING SONG(S)

*“How Great Is Our God”*

1. *The splendor of the King  
Clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice  
All the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
And trembles at His voice*

*Chorus: How great is our God  
Sing with me  
How great is our God  
And all will see how great  
How great is our God*

2. *And age to age He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the End  
Beginning and the End  
The Godhead three in one  
Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb*

*Bridge: Name above all names  
Worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God*

*How Great is Our God; Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Ed Cash  
CCLI Song # 4348399; © 2004 sixsteps Music;  
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*“Lead Me, Guide Me”*

*Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and power  
To help me over my weakest hour;  
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Refrain)*

*Lead Me, Guide, Me; Text: and Music: Doris Akers;  
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## NEHEMIAH ACTION

**Monday, April 26 @ 6:30pm (Zoom)**

**Use this link to register now**

<https://forms.gle/5HwTh6xfKHweBAC37>

At the Nehemiah Action on April 26th, MORE Justice will have 1800 people (online) to ask local public officials for changes to make Columbia a better place for our neighbors. Living Springs as a congregation will have 150+ at the Nehemiah Action. Public officials have been fully informed about what to expect that evening and know what we will be asking. We have learned in the past few years that a big turnout by people of faith can bring positive change to the Midlands. "People Power" enables us to follow God's mandate to do Justice. This year MORE Justice is addressing three community problems: mental illness, affordable housing, and community gun violence. Register now to attend the Nehemiah Action online on Monday April 26th, 6:30 pm.

In the story of Nehemiah we hear that People Power is how the Prophet Nehemiah brought justice for his people. That same People Power is needed today. Please join us on April 26th ! If you would like more information about the Living Springs Justice Ministry, please talk with a Justice Team Leader: Peg or Jim Zieche, Mike Davidson, Gwen Furcron, Gail Buchanan, Wayne Kannaday or Helen Doerpinghaus.

## WEDNESDAY HOPE TIMES

**April 28; May 5, 12, 18!**

**Noon & 6:45pm**

The word "hope" can be used in so many ways, including "wishing" we just had stuff—but what does Scripture tell us about the meaning of GOD's "sure & certain Hope" which we live and share? At Noon and 6:45, Pastor Carl and Pastor Eric will lead an exploration of scriptural teaching about God's hope, followed by an optional 15-minute time of hope, in which we share prayer & Holy Communion.

Noon session is in the sanctuary; 6:45pm session will be in-person in the fellowship hall, as well as on-line: [meet.google.com/ygs-gsiq-uzk](https://meet.google.com/ygs-gsiq-uzk) . Spread the word and invite your friends!

## THURSDAY HOPE-CASTS

**With Pr. Carl & Pr. Eric**

Posted each Thursday at 1:21pm on our Living Springs YouTube and Facebook pages.

## BUTTERFLY GARDENS OF HOPE!

The Good News Team shared packets of butterfly garden seeds as part of our Rush Hour ministry to our NE Cola neighbors as they stopped for the light at Hard Scrabble and Clemson the Monday of Holy Week. Many were very thankful at the Easter blessings and wishes that were passed as well as the seeds. Several said we had made their day.



**Share with us your (or your friends/family/neighbors) butterfly garden photos and stories to**

[GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org)

## BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY

Would you like to help with packing the bags for our backpack program? Signup Genius has the schedule for the remainder of the school year. Two to three people can pack at a time or maybe you would like to do it as a family project?

Contact Karen Kranz for details or questions. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack>.

*Calling all LS People & Friends*

**WEDNESDAY HOPE TIMES**

**April 28; May 5, 12, 19**

**12 Noon (sanctuary)**

**6:45pm (fellowship hall)**

**+online [meet.google.com/ygs-qsiq-uzk](https://meet.google.com/ygs-qsiq-uzk)**

**+++**

**Thursday Hope-Casts**

**1:21pm Facebook & YouTube**

**With Pastor Carl & Pastor Eric**



*Through Jesus you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God - 1 Peter 1:21*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:**

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

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**✝ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY ✝**

**Mark, Evangelist**

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.

## **WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!**

*We rejoice in your presence, as we join with others throughout the world for worship this Sunday!  
May the Spirit speak to your heart the message of God's redeeming love for everyone, through the  
grace shown to the world in Jesus.*

*We pray that that God's healing grace may truly touch every aspect of your life!*

+ + +

*If you are looking for a church family to offer you and your family support, fellowship,  
growth in faith, and opportunities to share the love of God with others,  
we invite you to come experience the Spirit's presence at Living Springs.*

*Everyone is welcome here - to share in the grace and unconditional love given us through Christ!*

**WELCOME GUESTS!** – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to sign the welcome book in the narthex. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the Pastor Carl (803-736-0661) or Pastor Eric (803-917-2749).

**RESTROOMS** – are located in the Administration Building. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations.

**OUR PRAYER MINISTRY** – As a community of disciples, we pray for one another and others - not just in times of illness, but also for praise, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. If you have a prayer request, call the office (803-736-0661) or send an email to: [prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org)

## **April Books of the Month: Philipians & Colossians**

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## **LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Office: (803) 736-0661

Child Development Center: (803) 736-0776

Ministers: People of Living Springs. Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

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