## **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00 21 APRIL 2024

# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

## We are a parish of many cultures and traditions, with deep Lutheran roots and wide ecumenical branches.

Geneva is a crossroads city and our doors are open to people from all over the world. About half of our members come from Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Anglican and other traditions, and half have Lutheran links. The Lutheran Church of Geneva was started by German expatriates in the 18th century, and the English-Speaking Congregation was formed in the 1950s after the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World YWCA and United Nations agencies opened offices in Geneva.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Nyambura Njoroge

Guest presider: Rev. Judy Davis

Reader: Adam Talsma

Prayer leader: Bryce Morrison

Altar care: Mee Ji

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Fulata Moyo, Ana Villanueva,

Hiromi Yano

Ushers: Joan Kiologwe, Grace Mgheni, Hellen Msemo

Offering counters: Ngoni Hove, Sam Mungure

Church school: Pia Hannewald, Kiki Lawal, Grete Willis,

Thomas Wilson

Flowers: German-Speaking Congregation Coffee hour: Neighborhood Group A

Videographers: Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

Our congregation is committed to handling personal data in a responsible and transparent way and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:

https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/

## Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation
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Telephone / Fax: 022 310 50 89

pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch www.genevalutheran.ch Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Fourth Sunday of Easter + 21 April 2024, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Welcome

Prelude

## Greeting

Knowing the voice, the timbres of love, the cadences of embrace and care, we come to hear Christ Jesus speak, to feel his presence near, to be released by a grace beyond us, so we live from gratitude rather than fear, and discover the welling up of praise, for our Good Shepherd, the Beloved One, Jesus Christ.



## Listen to your Savior call



Invitation to Prayer

## Prayer of Confession

You speak the path of love, blessed Jesus, but we confess our ears often swivel to the tunes of hired hands, the enticing slogans, the alluring promises, often false, the revved-up anger that charges the brain but drains connections to one another, the constant demand: "Come, buy."

Train us to respond to your calling, full of compassion and care. Retune the chords of our hearts so they find the sympathetic vibrations that hum along to the frequencies of your self-giving love. Turn our ears to your voice so we resonate with the living that satisfies, following your Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Amen.



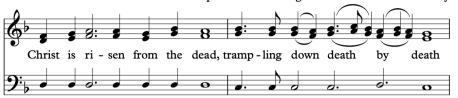
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

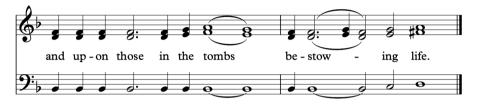
## Words of Assurance

## Hymn of Praise

#### Christ is risen from the dead

adapted from a Georgian Orthodox Easter Melody





Prayer of the Day

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

## First Reading

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want. The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures. and leads me beside still waters. You restore my soul. O Lord. and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I shall fear no evil. for you are with me: your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil and my cup is running over. Surely goodness, goodness, and mercy, mercy, shall follow me all the days of my life; all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. forever.

The next day their 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."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



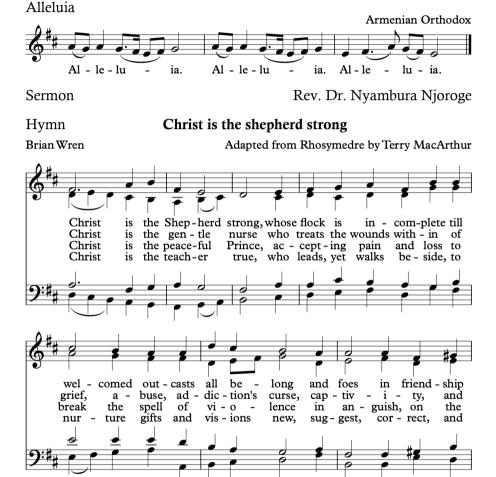
Gospel John 10:11-18

The Gospel according to John, chapter 10. *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."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.* 





Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

#### Peace

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Gathering of Gifts Psalm 23 The Lord Is My Shepherd, C. Collignon Choir

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

Refrain: The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need.

- 2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.
  - 3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.
    - 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever.



English Frederick Schlagenhaft and Terry MacArthur © 2009 LWF

taste

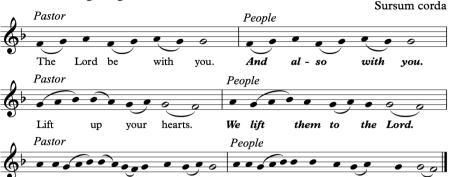
Joy and grace

with

re-fresh each morn-ing, so your good-ness we pro-claim.

Je - sus Christ, the ev - er - giv - ing, liv - ing bread.

## Great Thanksgiving



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### Preface

With all the animals of the field and the birds of the air who look to you for life,

## we praise you.

With all those like Abraham and Hagar, who hear your voice calling them,

#### we praise you.

With all those who rejoice like Miriam and dance your deliverance and freedom,

## we praise you.

With all your prophets and poets who are compelled to warn and encourage in your name, we praise you.

With your disciples down through the ages, who follow your will and give themselves to your cause, we praise you and join the choirs of saints and angels singing the ongoing hymn.



First time unison. Second time women start at the beginning while the men start at Part 2. Swedish, English and Music © Per Harling, Sweden

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

#### Words of Institution

#### Remembrance

...

We proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

#### Lord's Prayer

In our many languages

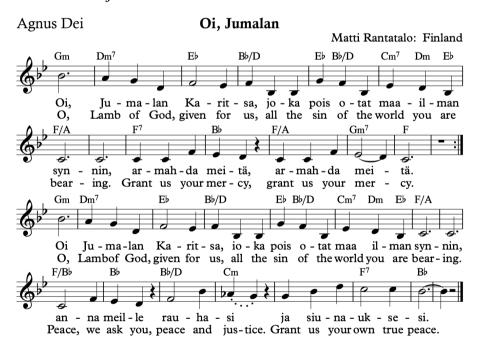
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



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#### Communion

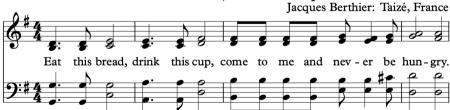
Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people are welcome and invited to his feast. From the tray, take a light-colored cup if you wish to receive grape juice or a dark-colored one if you wish to receive wine. After being served, place your cup on the tray.

## Songs during Communion

## Such perfect love, my shepherd shows



## Eat this bread, drink this cup





Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

#### Savior, like a shepherd lead us



Sending Forth Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Interested in Joining the English-Speaking Congregation?

The ESC will be receiving new members during the Easter season. Becoming a member means claiming this congregation as your church community in Geneva. You can be a member here and still maintain your membership in another congregation in your home country. If you are interested in joining our congregation in the coming weeks, please contact Andy Willis.

## Easter Season Small Group Study - Getting Involved with God

During Lent, several groups met weekly to discuss portions of the book *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*, by Ellen Davis. Some existing groups will be continuing, and new ones may be forming—so whether you participated during Lent or not, you're welcome to join a group this season. The book is a collection of freestanding essays and sermons on a variety of Old Testament themes--so it won't be a problem to join midway.

If you didn't participate in the Lent study and are interested in joining a group now, please contact Andy Willis: <a href="mailto:pastor@genevalutheran.ch">pastor@genevalutheran.ch</a>.

#### Serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday 4 May

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 4 May 2024. It takes place from 9h00 until about 13h00 at Le Jardin de Montbrillant (Rue de Montbrillant 3) just behind Geneva Cornavin train station. All are welcome to sign up and help prepare and serve a warm meal. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn (chriselis\_benn@bluewin.ch) for more information.

## Financial Update from the Treasurer: March 2024

The Congregation Council has decided to provide a monthly financial update of our church to the congregation through the bulletin. Our budgeted income for 2024 is CHF 321,145 (3K more than last year). The pro-rata total income as of 31.03.2024 should have been about CHF 80,000. But the actual income stands at about CHF 65,000, which is about CHF 15,000 behind. Last year at this point of time our income was about CHF 81,000. Thus we have a rather slow start in the year 2024 in terms of giving.

We thank you for your generous support to our congregation's ministry and look forward to the same in the coming months.

Warm regards, Dinesh Suna Treasurer, ELCG-ESC

#### Can You Host a Visiting University Student from 29 May to 2 June?

From 29 May to 2 June, a group of twelve university students from College Park, Maryland in the U.S. will be visiting Geneva. They are part of the Lutheran campus ministry at the University of Maryland and will be spending some days in Geneva for meetings with ecumenical and humanitarian organizations before going to Taizé for a week. We have been asked to help house the students for their three nights here. Housing a student would mean giving him/her a place to sleep, and possibly sharing dinner with him/her. Can you host one or more students? Contact the church office or sign up on the sheet this morning.

#### Writing the Prayer of the Day

After church on Sunday, 28 April, Terry MacArthur will conduct a writing workshop focused on the Prayer of the Day. This follows an ancient form called the Collect. It is usually one sentence long (although often a long sentence.) We will take the Biblical texts from the next Sunday as a starting point and then work toward a prayer for the day for the congregation.

#### **Serving Weekly Coffee Hour**

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

28 April – Group B

5 May – Group C 19 May – Group E

12 May – Group D

If you can help on a week when your group is assigned, please let your group's coordinator know.

## **Music Camp this Summer**

From Sunday, 11 August to Friday, 16 August 2024; there will be a summer camp organized by our music director Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg at La Lécherette in Vaud. The camp is for children ages 7 to 13, and previous musical knowledge is not required. The whole team together with the children will create a musical with a Circus theme, and the performance of the musical will be held on Sunday, 18 August at 16h00 at the ELCG. The cost for the week is CHF 400 per child (all-inclusive) with a discount for multiple children from the same family. Contact Katharina (katharina@genevalutheran.ch) to sign up or for more information.

Cover Image:

Swanson, John August, Psalm 23,

from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56560

#### This Week's Schedule:

Thu, 25 April	19h30	Choir rehearsal	
Sun, 28 April	9h30	Confirmation class	
	10h00	Church school	
	11h00	Worship on the Fifth Sunday of Easter	
Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30			

**Our church is entirely self-supporting.** Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

**By bank transfer**: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

By cash: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.

**By U.S. dollar check**: Make the check payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," and on the memo portion, write "GMG 0858".

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

**If you are a guest in our congregation today,** please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We would love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about our congregation.

	ELCG Connection Ca	rd
Name		
Phone		
Email		
Comments		
New to Geneva? Y/N		Date