

RIVER OF LIFE



21 APRIL 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | **refreshing truth for all people**

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

Fourth Sunday of Easter

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht (623) 312.8650 pastor.lincoln.albrecht@gmail.com

WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Yet as we consider this relationship, it's a bad bargain for the shepherd! The hired hand acts rationally. He is worth more intrinsically and certainly to himself than a hundred sheep and shouldn't die for any of them. In the case of Jesus that is true a thousand fold. But look what happens! He for whom the whole of creation exists freely and willingly sacrifices himself for the sheep who add nothing to his own infinite worth. The Father even agrees with that sacrifice. He loves the sheep, it would seem, even more than he loves the Shepherd! For it is his will that the Shepherd become the Good Shepherd in just this way. So much they love the flock! You would have to be a stone not to be moved by such love for you! Listen to his voice! It gives the life that he laid down and has now taken up again!

The Gathering for Good Shepherd Sunday ¹

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

M: The Lord declares: As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

Hear the word of the Lord, you nations. Proclaim it in distant coastlands:

P: **He who scattered Israel will gather them. He will watch over his flock like a shepherd.**

HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | **375 (1-2)**



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
Sav - ior gent - ly leads me; And where the ver - dant



I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feeds me.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We all like sheep have gone astray. Let us confess our sins before God.

P: **Let us examine our ways and test them.**

¹ Scriptures often depicts God's relationship with his people as a shepherd with his flock of sheep. The responsive portions of our gathering rite and confession of sins can be found in **Ezekiel 34:12; Jeremiah 31:10; Isaiah 53:6; Lamentations 2:11; 3:19-26, 31-33, 40; and 1 Peter 2:24-25; 5:1-4.**

M: Let us return to the LORD.

**P: Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to the God in heaven and say:
We have sinned and rebelled.**

M: My eyes fail from weeping. I am in torment within.

**P: I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.
I remember them well, and my soul is downcast within me.**

M: Why should the living complain when they are punished for their sins?

P: My heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed.

– Silence as we reflect on our many sins –

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

P: The LORD is my portion. Therefore I will wait for him.

M: No one is cast off by the LORD forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

P: He does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

M: The LORD is good to those who hope in him, to the one who seeks him.
Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
So, as a called under-shepherd of Christ, our Good Shepherd, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son **+** and of the Holy Spirit.

**P: Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his
compassions never fail.**

M: His mercies are new every morning. Great is the LORD'S faithfulness.

HYMN

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is | **375 (3)***

***Confused and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.***

Praise & Prayer ²

M: See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

P: He tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart. He gently leads those that have young.

HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | **375 (4)**

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.*

M: Jesus had compassion on the crowd, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

P: He said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

M: The LORD their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.

HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | **375 (5)**

*You spread a table in my sight, A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight; My cup is overflowing!*

M: The LORD says: "I will tend them in a good pasture. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak."

P: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

M: They will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

² The responsive portions of our words of praise can be found in **Mark 6:34; John 10:11; Zechariah 9:16; Ezekiel 34:14-16; Micah 5:4; and Revelation 7:17.**

P: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water.

M: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | **375 (6)**

*And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 20

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

As Paul passes by Ephesus so he can be in Jerusalem for Pentecost, he invites their elders to meet him at Miletus. Paul implores them to take their work to heart. The flock of the Good Shepherd relies upon the under-shepherds. Paul knows this work will be demanding and difficult, so he entrusts them to God's care and empowers them with his Word.



Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the children are invited forward to learn a truth tailored for them.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 10:14

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

P: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

M: I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep

P: **and my sheep know me. Alleluia.**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | 161 (1)

1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of -
fens - es giv - en; But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
joy - ful be And sing to God right thank - ful - ly
Loud songs of hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

John writes that the people of God have a crucial calling to evaluate what they hear and where it comes from. He warns that many will pretend to speak for God but will not be telling the truth. So how can anyone be sure of anything they hear?

Every Spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and is the Savior God has promised to send is from the Holy Spirit.

Anyone who denies that truth, no matter how wise, charismatic, popular, or thought-provoking they may seem to be is from the Evil One. Those who are of the world can only speak of what the world knows.

Those who are from God listen to God attentively and are careful to speak only with the authority and detail God has given.

GOSPEL READING

John 10

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

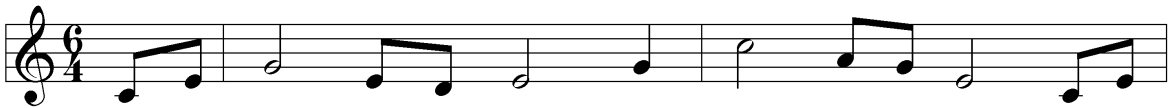
✿ THE GOOD ✿
shepherd
✿ LAYS DOWN ✿
his life
✿ FOR THE ✿
sheep

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need | 374



1 My shep - herd will sup - ply my need— Je -
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, His
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God At -



ho - vah is his name. In pas - tures fresh he
 pres - ence is my stay; One word of his sup -
 tend me all my days; Oh, may his house be



makes me feed Be - side the liv - ing stream.
 port - ing breath Drives all my fears a - way.
 my a - bode And all my work be praise.



He brings my wand - 'ring spir - it back When
 His hand, in sight of all my foes, Will
 There would I find a set - tled rest While



I for - sake his ways And leads me, for his
 still my ta - ble spread; My cup with bless - ings
 oth - ers go and come, No more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.
 o - ver - flows; His oil a - noints my head.
 or a guest But like a child at home.

Our Response to God's Word

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

P: We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.

M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, we, your wandering sheep, gather in your courts today. Thank you for nourishing us in the green pastures of your Word and Sacrament. You know us and our deepest needs better than we do.

P: Thank you for leading us beside the still waters of your forgiveness of sins.

M: You continue to restore our souls by leading us in the paths of Christ's righteousness. Your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.

P: The more we learn of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, the better we appreciate your unconditional love to sinners like us.

M: Lord of life, we often recognize a few of the dangers that surround us. Some mornings we are painfully aware that we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Thank you for sustaining us in challenging times.

P: Your rod and your staff are of great comfort to us every single day.

M: Good Shepherd of our souls, we often suffer and seek answers. Assure us that some suffering is you chastening us. Others are wholly unjust. You assure us that you mourn with those who mourn. We ask now that you graciously use all our difficulties to draw us closer to you for eternity.

A time for silent, personal prayer for God's children and their difficulties.

M: Loving Lord, you call us by name. We know your voice. Hear our prayers:

P: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation: Lord God, Heavenly Father, You called me by name and declared that I was Your child through the washing of my Baptism. I desire, now, to receive the true body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in this Holy Meal. Continue to grant me grace, that I may stand before You and the body of believers and faithfully speak of the hope that is mine through Your life, death, and resurrection. Strengthen me. Grant me the forgiveness of sins and the ability to do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

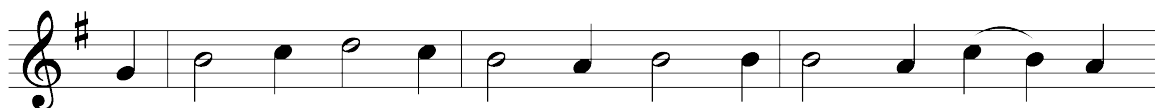
P: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We praise you, especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

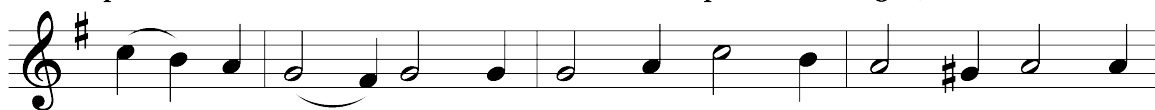
Rejoice, Angelic Choirs, Rejoice | 957 (1-2)



1 Re - joice, an - gel - ic choirs, re - joice! Re - joice now, all cre -
2 O earth, ex - ult in ra - diance bright, il - lu - mined by Christ's



a - tion! Let trum - pets loud - ly raise their voice to hail the
splen - dor! Your dark - ness now is put to flight; to him due



Lord's sal - va - tion. Let all Christ's ho - ly priest-hood sing the
prais - es ren - der! Be glad, O Church! Sing out your songs! Your



tri - umph of their might - y King in fes - tive cel - e - bra - tion!
tem - ples fill with shout - ing throngs to hail the glo - rious vic - tor!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✙ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✙ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

P: Amen.

HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 141 (1-2)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing
You have con - quered in the fight; You have



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!

DISTRIBUTION



At River of Life, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, along with the bread & wine, we miraculously receive the real body & blood of Christ for the full forgiveness of sins. Scripture directs believers in preparation and reception: **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."** (1 Cor. 11:29)

This meal is also an expression of unity with one another: **"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."** (1 Cor. 10:17) Therefore we ask that if you are not familiar with our teachings, please speak with Pastor Albrecht before taking the Lord's Supper. Thank you.

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
 giv-en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
 this is my blood giv - en up for you.

Verses

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.
 A chos - en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the Shep - herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place; on me you rest
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.
 I am the Bride - groom, this my wed - ding song.

To Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

This Is the Feast of Victory | 265 (1)



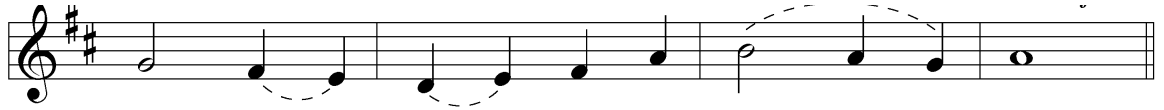
This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

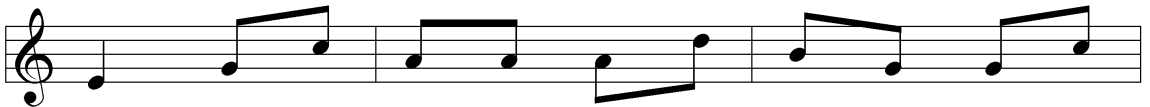
P: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | 432



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; Ev - er glad at heart I
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my staff and
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the shep - herd's



am, For my shep - herd gent - ly guides me, Knows my
stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me, In - to
lamb? And when my short life is end - ed, By his



needs and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, he
an - gel hosts at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go, Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to his breast, There with - in his arms to rest.



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. Stick around for a bite to eat and a refreshing drink. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

NAMETAGS

Have you ever been at a big gathering where everyone seems to know one another but you can't quite remember their names as well as they do yours? It's not much fun! In an effort to help everyone get to know each other better—and remember names—we are ordering a fresh round of name tags. If you already have one, you are encouraged to wear it each Sunday. If you don't have one, talk with Richard Hansen about ordering one in our next go round!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARIZONA LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Our federation high school, Arizona Lutheran Academy (6036 S 27th Avenue) is hosting some great events this month. On the final weekend of April (26-28th) student theater will be performing a one-of-a-kind musical, Anastasia. The Friday and Saturday performances are at 7pm. Sunday's is at 3pm. The musical will be hosted in the gymnasium and you can purchase tickets at the door. In addition, on Sat. April 27th, the athletic department is hosting a golf classic at the Legacy Resort to raise funds for the athletic environment and experiences of the student-athletes. Visit alacoyotes.org/support/golf-classic/ for more information.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Portions of our service are from Christian Worship, Christian Worship Supplement (NPH Electronic Ed.), and Luther's Catechism (Revised) and are reprinted under One-License.net License #A-723544 and CCLI Copyright License #20992728 & Streaming License #20992735. All Scripture references taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ® Copyright © 2011 by International Bible Society.

Hymn #375 **The King of Love My Shepherd Is** Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, alt.

Hymn #161 **Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands** Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546, abr.; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt.

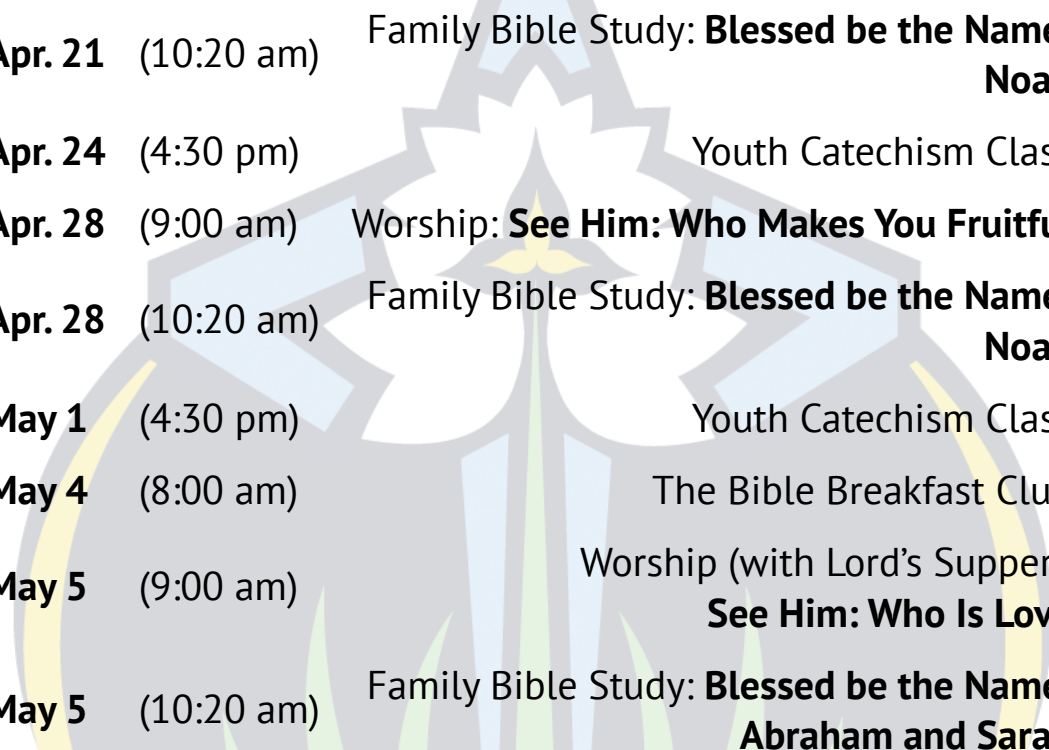
Hymn #374 **My Shepherd Will Supply My Need** Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Hymn #741 **Take and Eat** Text (refrain): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Text (verses): James Quinn, S. J., b. 1919 © James Quinn, S. J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc. North American agent. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Hymn #432 **I Am Jesus' Little Lamb** Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

- 
- Apr. 21** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Noah**
- Apr. 24** (4:30 pm) Youth Catechism Class
- Apr. 28** (9:00 am) Worship: **See Him: Who Makes You Fruitful**
- Apr. 28** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Noah**
- May 1** (4:30 pm) Youth Catechism Class
- May 4** (8:00 am) The Bible Breakfast Club
- May 5** (9:00 am) Worship (with Lord's Supper): **See Him: Who Is Love**
- May 5** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Abraham and Sarah**

CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AZRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you