



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

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.

This worship service is live-streamed and recorded. It can be viewed on St. Paul's YouTube channel.

GATHERING

WELCOME

D: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia**

PRELUDE

Aria

Charles Peerson

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

All: **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life

Look, here is water!

All: **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

All: **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Bold print: Congregation

GREETING

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

All: **And also with you.**

THIS IS THE FEAST



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: 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.

The assembly is invited to be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

A Reading from Acts.

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."

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

ELW 780

Verse 1: all Verse 2: east side of sanctuary Verse 3: west side of sanctuary
Verse 4: soloists Verse 5: all

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

A Reading from first John.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation sings the refrain. Soloist sings the verse and congregation repeats the refrain.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Soloist: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Peg Otte

The assembly is invited to stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

a brief silence

A: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel.

All: hear our prayer.

D: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

D: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. Be the sure resting place for those on our prayer list and those for whom we now pray, silently or aloud (*pause*). God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

D: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

All: Amen.

PEACE

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

All: And also with you.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered and the Table is set.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Spirit, Open My Heart

**Irish Tune,
arr. Kurt Westerberg**

Anne Humphrey, soprano; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

OFFERING 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.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

TABLE BLESSING

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

All: Amen

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING 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 SONG

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe

Daniel Purcell

THANK YOU

- ◆ To our musicians: Trudy Nelson, piano; Anne Humphrey, soprano; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano
- ◆ To Diane Mues for hosting Coffee Fellowship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For LuAnne Origer and her family, as they mourn the death of LuAnne's aunt, Dorothy.

For David Foster, recovering from surgery to repair a broken leg/ankle.