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**Worship & Holy Communion**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Sunday, April 21, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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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.

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***In God's Service***

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Worship Leader: | Pastor Jane Harris         |
| Ministers:      | All Baptized People of God |
| Music:          | Joe Chodur                 |
| Reader:         | Diane Murphy               |
| Ushers          | Jim & Diane Murphy         |

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## PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.*

### CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

***Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!***

***ELW 369 Vs 1-2***



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## **GREETING**

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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Beautiful Savior*

**ELW 838**

**vs 3**

Fair is the sunshine,  
fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Acts 4:5-12**

Salvation in the name of Jesus

## **Psalm 23**

Hymn ELW 778

## **1 John 3:16-24**

Love in truth and action

## **John 10:11-18**

Christ the shepherd

A reading from Acts:

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMS-HYMN**

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

**ELW 778**

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask,

because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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.**  
*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## *Have No Fear Little Flock*

**ELW 764**



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

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

## **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 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 (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)**

**P:** 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.*** Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another.

**C:** Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel.

**P:** Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems.

**C:** 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.**

**P:** Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples.

**C:** **Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good.**

**P:** 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.

**C:** **. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable.**

**P:** Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice.

**C:** **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.**

**P:** Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith.

**C:** **Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day.**

**P:** 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.

**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*(The assembly stands)*

**OFFERTORY**

**Come Ye Thankful People Come**

**ELW 693 Vs 3**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**PREFACE**

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.*

*(The assembly is seated)*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Accompanist Choice*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *The assembly stands.*

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.**

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

**ELW 369 Vs 3-4**



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Calendar**

### **This Week:**

Sunday, Apr. 21

9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP

10:30 am Sunday School in

Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Fellowship

Monday, Apr. 22

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice SP

Wednesday, Apr. 24

9:30 am M & M's/WELCA SP

6:30 pm Bible Study OS

### **Next Week:**

Sunday, Apr.28

9:30 am Worship/Communion @ OS

10:30 am Sunday School in

Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Fellowship

2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP

Monday, Apr. 29

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice SP

Wednesday, May. 1

9:30 am M&M's/ WELCA SP

6:30 pm Bible Study OS

## Announcements

Pastor Jane will be on vacation April 24th-30th. For any pastoral needs, please contact the office of either church.

Please be sure to sign **friendship registers** located at end of pews.

**Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**-Our Saviour's will be gathering items for personal care kits thru May 12.

Most needed items:

**Adult toothbrushes**

**Bars of soap**(4oz is best, or 3 oz)

**Bath towels** (no larger than 27x52")

**Money donations** to help pay for items.

Contact Marilyn Martell 641-425-9048 for any help needed.

**THANK YOU to all** who have been so generous with donations for the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits. A special THANK YOU to the WELCA gals who has been lovingly making the quilts every Monday at both churches! St. Paul will be assembling kits. They just need to be packed into boxes, blessed and taken to Albert Lea. (From there they are taken by semi to the huge LWR warehouse in Minneapolis.) Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to make a **donation**, of any size, to help with shipping costs. You may use the small envelopes (on the inside/center aisle) to help ship both of these items all over the world. LWR says it costs about \$1.50 for them to ship each **kit** and \$2.80 for each **quilt** to get it to its final destination. If you would like to make a donation by check, simply write it to the appropriate church and indicate it is for shipping. (Please check out the large map on the west wall in the St. Paul Fellowship Hall, by the coffee pots to show where these greatly needed items went in 2023.) God has blessed the United States with so much and others have nothing.

Planning has begun for the **Band Festival Food Stand** to be held on Saturday, May 25. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of pop, cookies, bars and money for hot dogs is needed. There is an additional sheet for those able to help on that day. This is always a fun event and you have a perfect seat to watch the parade,

**Picture taking for our new church pictorial directory** has been set for Tuesday, June 11, and Wednesday, June 12. Photo sessions will take place at Our Saviour's in the afternoons and evenings those two days. These will be professional photos provided by Universal Church Directories. The photo sessions are free and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo, with an option to purchase more photos if you wish. You will soon be receiving a letter from us either in the mail, or an email, if that's normally how you receive communications from us. It will include information on how to register online for a time slot to take your picture. We will also have a signup sheet in the fellowship hall each Sunday, if you don't care to do it online. You can also call either church office (during office hours) and schedule it.

**Reminder:** the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesday at 10 a.m.

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is [janeharris2010@gmail.com](mailto:janeharris2010@gmail.com) if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.