

"I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."

~ John 10: 9

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Forth Sunday of Easter – April 30, 2023

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.

All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew. At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift as you are comfortable. You may also place any updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates.

At the time of **Holy Communion**, all are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor, then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a restroom, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

*GATHERING SONG Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! (ELW 369)



*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Water! We praise you, O God, for water: for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. We praise you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture your whole creation. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Let us come before the Lord, singing *kyrie eleison*, Lord, have mercy, trusting in God's abundant grace promised in these waters of life.

*KYRIE



*THIS IS THE FEAST



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

A reading from Acts.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 Metrical Psalter



The Lord's my Shepherd, all my need
 Will surely be supplied;
 By quiet streams and through green
fields,

The Lord will be my guide

- 2. The Lord revives me, guides my feet
 On pathways that are right,
 And I will fear no evil though
 I walk through darkest night.
- 3. Your rod and staff both comfort me;
 Before my gathered foes
 You feed me; you anoint my head,
 And my cup overflows.
- 4. Your goodness and your mercy, Lord,
 Shall surely follow me,
 And I will dwell in God's own house
 For all eternity.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from 1 Peter.

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,

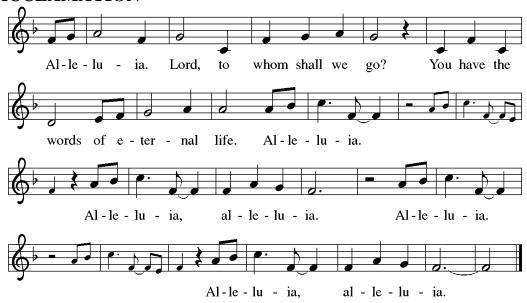
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY Shepherd Me, O God (ELW 780)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence for reflection*

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way especially Jeff, Bob, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Larry, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the gate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hear our prayers with a compassionate heart. We ask that you now hear the prayers we lift up to you this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). We offer to you the prayers that we do not yet dare to speak, but we know you hear, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

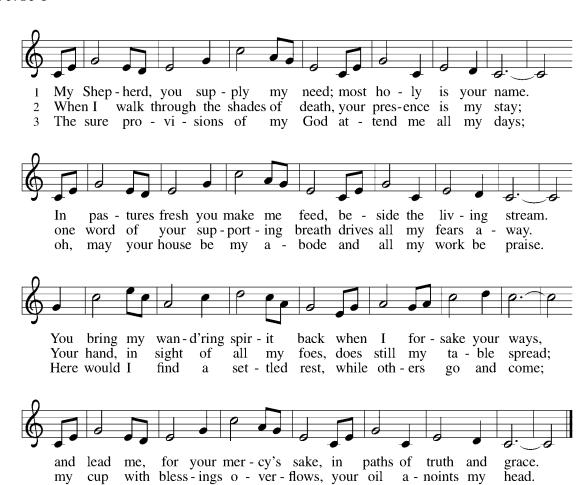
And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN My Shepherd, You Supply My Need (ELW 782)

Rise on verse 3



*OFFERING PRAYER

more a

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

strang - er or a guest, but like a child

home.

*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.

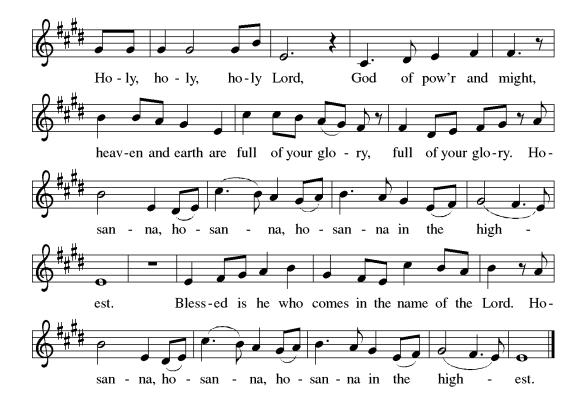
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God, and great is your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

To explain God's love, to show it and share it, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his good command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we ask you to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be made holy, and have our place with all your saints.

All blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, through Jesus Christ, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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

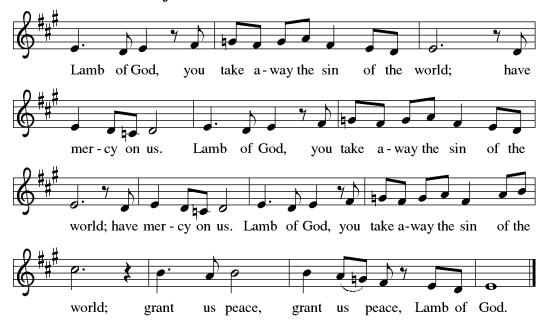
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Come, for all is now ready.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Those who do not receive the elements of bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

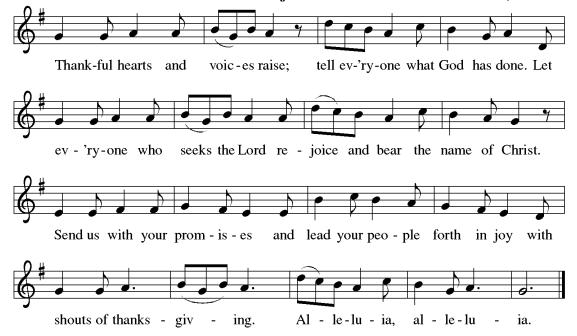
COMMUNION HYMN The Peace of the Lord (ELW 646)



*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us (ELW 789)



- We are yours; in love be friend us,
- You have prom-ised to re ceive us,
- let us seek your fa vor, Ear - ly

the guard-ian of our way; be

poor and sin - ful though we be; let us do your will; ear - ly



your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior,

for our use your fold pre-pare. seek us when we go a - stray. grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free. with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours. Je-sus, bless-ed hear us chil - dren when we Bless-ed Je - sus, pray. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie Cardinal

Acolyte: Ava Niklewicz Ushers: Missy Kramer Greeters: Cardinal Family

Offering: Ella Niklewicz & Emma Niklewicz

Young Reader: Abigail Cardinal

Notes for the day's texts:

To deepen our contemplation of the metaphor of Christ as shepherd, it is good to review the positive use that the Bible makes of the image of sheep. The Jewish Scriptures remembered their people as having been sheep and goat herders. Sheep signified the communal life of the people, constituted a source of food and clothing, and functioned as the primary sacrificial gifts to God. The bare-footed white-robed man is not a realistic depiction of the shepherd, who by the first century was thought of as lower-class and religiously unclean.

Still today some herders in Iran, after gathering the sheep into an enclosure at night, lay themselves down to sleep at the opening of the pen. The wolf cannot enter through the opening, because the body of the herder has become the gate. In some medieval churches, the main doorway was elaborately decorated with biblical scenes, sometimes also surrounded with the signs of the zodiac, as if the door was a symbol of Christ, proclaimed in the Bible and encompassing the universe. The body of our Lord, taken in holy communion, is a gate to eternal life.

Today's Music

Christ the Lord is Risen Today. Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt., Music: Robert Williams, 1781–1821. Public Domain.

Psalm 23. Text: The New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876, Public Domain.

Shepherd Me, O God. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc. My Shepherd, You Supply My Need. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt., based on Psalm 23, Music: North American traditional. Public Domain.

The Peace of the Lord. Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Music: Anders Ruuth. Lutheran World Federation / Augsburg Fortress.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress.

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us. Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847, Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of Stephen
Psalm 31 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit
Peter 2:2-10 God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts
John 14:1-14 Christ, the way, truth, and life