

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

The good shepherd  
lays down his life  
for the sheep.

John 10:11



Easter 4

April 25, 2021



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

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Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

**Easter 4**

**April 25, 2021**

## CHRIST IS RISEN!

We joyfully welcome all who gather here this morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. A special welcome to all guests and visitors. From our sin we expected judgment, from the cross we expected death, but on this morning we celebrate the empty tomb, the risen Lord,

and the gift of God's grace - forgiveness, salvation, and life everlasting.

**HALLELUJAH!**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### ✠ **GATHERING** ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We give thanks, most gracious God, for knowing love in its most sincere and beautiful form - in Jesus. He did not just tell people how to live - serving others, turning the other cheek, loving the unlovable - he demonstrated these things in the way he lived. We want to serve as Jesus served, but we confess that our priorities can become so easily confused by the values of the world - values usually in conflict with those spelled out by Jesus. He demonstrated that love was the priority of his life, even going to the cross to demonstrate the supremacy of love over evil. We want to be true and active witnesses of that love but you know how frequently we fail.

Merciful God, forgive us when our words and actions fail to disclose your love.

**Fill us anew with your Spirit O God,**

so that our weakness is overcome by your strength,

**our selfishness is overwhelmed by your generosity,**

and our apathy is replaced by your enthusiasm.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

### EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

"All who believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another, live in him and he lives in them." (*John 3: 23, 24*) and "There is salvation in no-one else..." Hear and believe the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

## **OPENING SONG**

*“Have No Fear, Little Flock”*

*Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,  
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;  
have no fear, little flock!*

*7Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,  
for the Father will keep you in his love forever;  
have good cheer, little flock!*

*Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,  
for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you;  
praise the Lord high above!*

*Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,  
for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;  
thankful hearts raise to God!*

## **APOSTOLIC 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.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*“Glory to God...”*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
Glory to God in the highest,*

*and peace to God’s people on earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

## 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.**

## ✠ **WORD** ✠

### *God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song*

*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.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Acts 4:5-12**

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

<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.**

## PSALM

**Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of  
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

**1 John 3:16-24**

*Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.*

<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

*“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”*

*Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah.*

## GOSPEL READING

**John 10:11-18**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

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.**

## CHILDREN SERMON

### SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

## SONG OF THE DAY

*“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.*

*We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.*

*You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.*

*Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.*

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

## **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 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 THE COMMUNITY**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **✠ SENDING ✠**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

## **BLESSING**

### **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

### **\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **SENDING SONG**    *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!*

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
Thanks be to God.

## ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING** - Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) (electronic giving).

## Postlude



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Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

# Abundant Care

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.