

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

The
sheep
follow
him
because
they
know
his
voice.

John 10:4, NRSV



Easter 4

April 30, 2023



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

HE IS RISEN!

We joyfully welcome all guest and visitors who are worshiping with us this morning. We gather to celebrate our Lord's glorious resurrection.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Hymn Sing

Throughout the worship there will be opportunities to choose/sing favorite songs. We will sing two (2) verses of each chosen song. In most spots we will choose two different songs to sing – when asked, please name the song and song number if you know it.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green & Blue Hymnals.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSION

*Confession and Forgiveness

You are my shepherd, O God, and I want for nothing

You rest me in green pastures

and lead me beside still waters,

you restore and refresh my soul.

You lead me along right paths

so that even though I walk through the darkest valley

I fear no evil,

for you are with me,

guiding and comforting me.

You treat me as an honored guest;

preparing a table before me

even in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil

and my cup of blessing overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy

shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in your presence for ever.

We praise you, O God, for giving shape and meaning to the ancient image of yourself as shepherd through the person of Jesus Christ.

In him, your compassion has been eternally revealed, giving your rod and staff the human face of love.

Through Jesus' persistence even to death - in seeking and saving the lost - your goodness and mercy has been abundantly experienced.

His ongoing life continues to guide and lead us in paths of righteousness.

How can we do other than praise and adore you, O God, and listen to Jesus' voice as he calls us to follow him.

And yet, we confess that there are times when we fail to hear and obey his call because our lives are so filled with activities and noise.

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we fail to reach out and accompany those who are going through difficult times; those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.

The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort, wherever you need us to bind up the wounds of the victims of today's society.

Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.

The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways, your passion for those who feel powerless to make any changes for good in their lives.

Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.

The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us, so that your goodness and mercies are enjoyed not as rewards to be hoarded, but as gifts to be shared.

In your name, we pray. Amen

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

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were going astray like sheep, but now have been returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. So, hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we are sought, we are found, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***APOSTOLIC 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.

***OPENING SONG**

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

474

*Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

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WE BAPTIZE
Carter Curtis Arneson

PRESENTATION AND PROMISES

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have him baptized into Christ?

Parents/Sponsors: We do.

Parents, as you bring him to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help him grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture him in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support **Carter Curtis** and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

***BAPTISMAL (APOSTLES') CREED**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

Blessed be God now and forever.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

Blessed be God now and forever.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God now and forever.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Carter Curtis, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain **Carter Curtis** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Carter Curtis, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

(The pastor, after dipping his hand in the baptismal waters, makes the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.)

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

(A candle is lit from the Christ Candle and given to the parents as a symbol of Jesus Christ - the Light of the World, and as a reminder that they are responsible for sharing Jesus Christ with their child.)

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***HYMNS OF PRAISE**

“How Great Thou Art”

(vs. 1-2) # 532

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;*

*Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain*

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989. Text © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. (ASCAP)

Choose one song

***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.

✠ WORD ✠

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

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47

Today’s reading is a description of life in the community following Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God’s people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

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 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" ELW #172

Sing thru 2 times

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

*GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

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 MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONGS OF THE DAY

"I Love to Tell the Story"

(vs. 1-2) # 390

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.*

*Refrain I love to tell the story; .I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Choose one song

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY**

Choose two songs

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONGS**

Choose two songs

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Tables Spread for Life Abundant

Sometimes a table is spread in a generous fashion but still feels impersonal, like the buffet at a big conference. You can fill your plate as many times as you want, but that doesn't change the fact that you're wearing a printed name tag because no one in the room actually knows your name.

And sometimes a table spread seems meager because it's the end of the month or you didn't have time to make it to the store, but you're with friends who feel like family, so no one is worried about how simple the meal is.

Today we have the best of both worlds. We have abundance to the point of extravagance, and we have a God who knew our names even before we were born. We have a table heaped with grace upon grace and our heads anointed with oil, and we have a God whose voice we recognize as soon as we hear our names spoken aloud. All our beloveds have been invited, and every last one of us has a name card in front of our plates, handwritten in our favorite color, no doubt. Today we're reminded that even when the world feels like a wreck, God shows up with abundance, inviting us by name.

Where have you noticed this lately? Where have you noticed goodness and mercy following you around? Where have you noticed evidence that God wants you to experience life? In the feisty weeds poking up through the cracks in the sidewalks? In the hope of the students who are so close to summer break they can taste it? In the bright sunshine breaking through the clouds not thirty seconds after the thunder stops? In the youngest members of your worshiping community, skipping forward with their hands outstretched for bread and blessing?

It's there, this evidence of God's life abundant. Go looking for it. Go looking to remind someone else. It's way too good to miss.