

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

April 25, 2021

## *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**Introduction for the Day:** 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.

### *Gathering*

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

**We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God our Creator.**

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God so that, calling upon the name of the Lord, we may be saved.

*(We pause for meditation and self-examination)*

Almighty and all-merciful God,

**We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise. We have brought sorrow and darkness where you once said, "Let there be light." We have offended you and others and are sorry for our offenses.**

But Christ is risen.

**Risen indeed!**

Since we have been united with him in a death like his,  
**we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. For his sake we ask  
 you, O God, forgive our sins and free us to live a new life in Jesus. Let us be  
 raised with Christ.**

“Thus, it is written, that the Messiah had to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in his name.” Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**We have seen the risen Lord! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn

**#389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing**

Please meditate on the hymn text as it is being played.

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let street  
 and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age, till earth and  
 sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Tune: Truro, LM. Music: T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789. Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936. Text © 1975, rev. 1995  
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Opening Litany for the Fourth Sunday of Easter and Apostolic Greeting

The Lord is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

O Lord, our Shepherd, you are good,

**for you know us well and bring us close to you.**

You protect us from all danger and listen to our cries.

**You lay down your life for us and prepared a place of goodness for us.**

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be  
 with you all.

**And also with you.**

### 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*

*(Please be seated)*

First 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 is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

A reading from Acts, Chapter 4.

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 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, 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.

This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 23, Read Responsively

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 23.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

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

**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.**

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

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Second 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.*A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> John, Chapter 3.

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. 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?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

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. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation **#367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

Please meditate on the hymn text as it is being played.

*Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"*

*Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1946, alt. Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission. OneLicense.net A-703603. Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen, 888 888 and Alleluias. Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Gospel **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 Lord is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

The holy gospel according to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O risen Lord!**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

**Praise to you, O risen Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

Sermon

Pastor Jim Holmberg

Hymn of the Day

**#789 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Please meditate on the hymn text as it is being played.

*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.*

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847. Tune: Bradbury 87 87D. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, 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

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.

...We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Peace of Christ

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled." The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Meal*

*(Please be seated)*

Musical Offering [Video 5-12-2019]     *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. by Dan Forrest  
Senior Choir

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Our cup overflows, a cup poured by your own hand, Good Shepherd. Use our gifts, we pray. Let them spill out as signs of our praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The 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**

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

O Shepherd, you offer so much more than green pastures, so much more than still waters.

In this meal we are offered a taste of that which awaits us; "in the house of the Lord forever."

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

*(Please be seated)*

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Hymn

**#469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

Please meditate on the hymn text while it is being played.

*By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven's bread. For these  
gifts we did not labor, by your grace have we been fed:*

*Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life outpoured, given as  
a living token of your world redeemed, restored.*

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