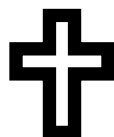


Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21st, 2024

9:00 am

Communion



*281 Years of
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743

Sunday, April 21st, 2024 – services led by Pastor Stephen Boughter

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDES

On Tannenberg: **"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"**

Jesse S. Irvine, Arr. by Richard Unfried

On Piano: **"The Wonderful Cross"**

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, J.D. Walt, and Jesse Reeves, Arr. by Carol Tornquist

On Allen Organ: **"Canzonetta"**

William Stickles

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN "Christ the Lord, is Risen Today" – ELW #369, 1, 2 & 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!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 the wellspring of grace,
 our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
 We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and
 water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your
reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ,
our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

"Glory be to God"



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

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 can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

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

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

⁴**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.**

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

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

Please stand

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.

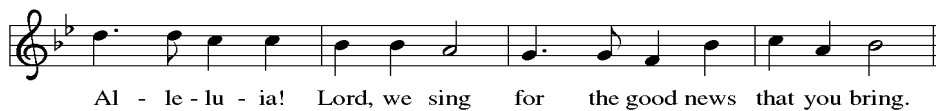
¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

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

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia"



Gospel: John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" – ELW #502, Vs. 1, 2, & 4



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

A: 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.

A: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable including **Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Greg Wicker, Don Walt, Joan Emswiler, Hilary Cohen, Valerie Bazzley, Cristin Lorman, Jeanette Kaufmann, Aubree Pascale, Ellen Gray, Holly Bauman, Mary Lesh, Brookelyn Rogers, Bob Bell and Ruth Mathias.** God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

P: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith *including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel.* Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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.

C: Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Other Side of the Cross"

Words and Music by Don Reid

Vocal Solo by Brian Mickiewicz

Please be seated

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen.

Please stand

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ.

C: Amen.

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

C: 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

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

C: Amen.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

P: This is the Body of Christ given for you

C: **I believe or Amen** (Congregation will eat the wafer)

P: This is the Blood of Christ given for you

C: **I believe or Amen** (Congregation will drink the wine)

COMMUNION HYMNS

#1 – "Taste and See" – ELW #493

Text and Music: James E Moore Jr

#2 – "Here is Bread" – ELW #483, All Verses

Text and Music by Graham Kendrick

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.


SENDING HYMN "On Our Way Rejoicing" – ELW #537, All Verses



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

William B. Bradbury, Arr. Richard Unfried

Bible Readings for the Week

Monday	Genesis 48:8-19	God has been my shepherd
Tuesday	1 Chronicles 11:1-9	The shepherd David made king
Wednesday	Mark 14:26-31	Christ, the shepherd
Thursday	Micah 7:8-20	God will shepherd the people
Friday	1 Peter 5:1-5	Christ, the great shepherd
Saturday	Psalms 95	We are the sheep of God's hand

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