St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (setting 1) 10:30 am

April 21, 2024

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America (ELCA).

Phone: 202.966.5489

Fax: 202.362.9165

Website: www.stpaulslutherandc.com Email: office@stapaulslutherandc.com

The Rev. Dr. Andrea L. Walker, Pastor awalker@stpaulslutherandc.com

Lisa B. Wackler
Director of Congregational Life
lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com

Sonja Kahler & Matt Larson
Music Directors
skahler@stpaulslutherandc.com
mlarson@stpaulslutherandc.com

Joy C. Belew Office Administrator joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

God is my shepherd—Antonín Dvořák (solo: Bill Commins, baritone)

See solo text and more on today's music at bulletin's end.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- 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!

*HYMN ELW 385

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

*GREETING

- 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 OF PRAISE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jason Stonerook

Today's Psalm (not read):

Psalm 23

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

Note: Psalm 23 is sung in hymn paraphrase today as the hymn of the day.

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. When 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 The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

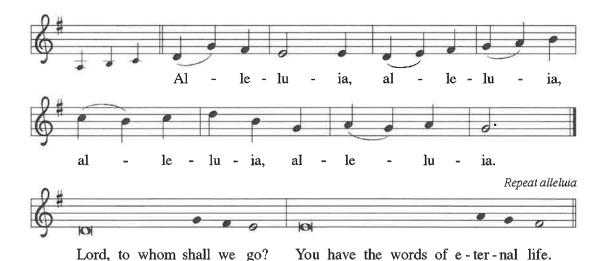
Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

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; ²² and 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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Please stand as you are able

*GOSPEL John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

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.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

*HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 502

The King of love my Shepherd is (stz. 1: all, 2: women, 3: choir, 4: men, 5+6: all)

*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

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.

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, hear our prayer.

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, hear our prayer.

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, hear our prayer.

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. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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, on the margins or suffering in any way, *especially*.... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

You can text your offering to 844-262-6943 — Text To Give.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep—Philip Ledger

(text: Jane Leeson)

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep; Nothing can thy power withstand,

none can pluck me from thy hand.

I would praise thee ev'ry day, gladly all thy will obey,

Like thy blessed ones above happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear; Suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go, walking in thy steps below,

Till before my Father's throne I shall know, as I am known.

(Communion Assistants come to the altar at the Offertory Hymn)

This joyful Eastertide



*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. 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.

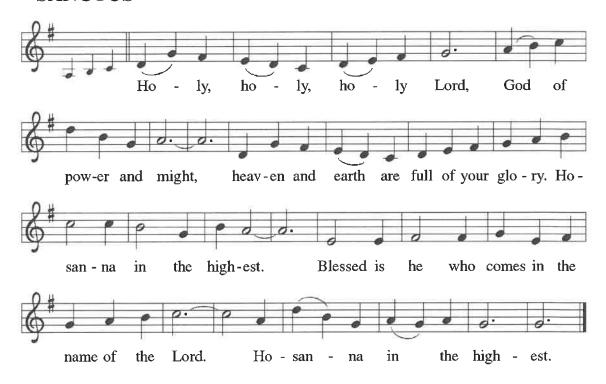
*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P 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:

*SANCTUS



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

C 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

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

COMMUNION

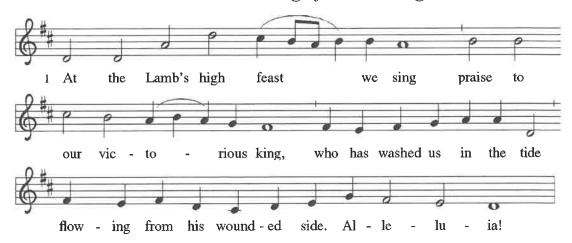
Everyone is welcome to the Lord's Table. Please come forward by way of the center aisle to receive Christ's body and blood. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Please pick up a small glass from the trays on either side of the aisle.

After receiving the bread, you will then find two chalices on each side of either the pastor or assisting minister, the first being a pouring chalice of wine and the second being a pouring chalice of grape juice. Used glasses can then be placed in the trays on the far side of the communion assistants. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

SONG OF THE LAMB

ELW 362 (stz 1)

At the Lamb's high feast we sing



HYMN ELW 484

You satisfy the hungry heart

HYMN ELW 764

Have no fear, little flock

*TABLE BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you 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 Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.
- C Amen.

I know that my Redeemer lives! (stanzas 1-4 + 8)

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

At the Lamb's high feast we sing—setting by Paul Manz

Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially; Family and friends of Ted Lupo upon his death, Marlee, Susanne Maier-Meise, Anthony Barnes, Lynn Adkins, Francine Walker, Jay Guerber, Michael & Ludette Palero, Donna Hershey, Betty Mastrobattista, Shannon Isenberg, John Ralston, Chris Gockeley, Caleb Benedict, the Dubinsky family, Dan Isley, Vicky, Ron & Nancy Rademacher, Sharon Defalco, Meaghan, Vesper Seeney, Jeannette Richardson, Andi, Vi Baker, Tionna, Robert Grathwol, Mildred Shannon, June Ericsson, Isaiah, Karen Brunn, Mihkel & Sarah Smit, Pearl Apisson, Stephanie Skurcenski, Sue Ericsson, Grace Yin. For all those suffering in the Middle East, Ukraine and Haiti and for all those persecuted for their religious beliefs throughout the world.

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Serving Today:

Altar Flowers: Deborah Charlton

Altar Guild: Dave Grossman

Assisting Minister: Jason Stonerook

Greeters/Ushers: Joan Janshego, Mihkel Smit

Lay Reader: Sarah Smit

Communion Assistants: Funke Idowu, Rosalind Carter, Sarah

Smit, Becca Yant

A/V Assistant: **Drew Morrison** Coffee Hour: **Veronica Ferris**

Music Note

On this Good Shepherd Sunday (4 Easter), beloved of Lutherans, the appointed Psalm 23 appears several times in our song: in the **prelude**, as our hymn of the day and again in the offering anthem. The prelude solo (text below) is drawn from the Czech version of the Book of Psalms. Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) composed his ten *Biblical Songs* while living in the United States for two years.

The lovely tune of the **hymn of the day** is named for St. Columba (521-597), the Irish saint who founded monasteries and via the island of Iona brought Christianity to Scotland. The **postlude** is a setting by American organist Paul Manz of hymn 362, stanza 1 of which is our "Song of the Lamb" at communion now for the Easter season.

The prelude text is:

(No. 4 from Biblical Songs, Opus 99)

God is my shepherd, I want for nothing.

My rest is in the pleasant meadows.

He leadeth me where quiet waters flow.

My fainting soul doth He restore

And guideth me in the ways of peace to glorify his name.

And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander,

My spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still.

Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.

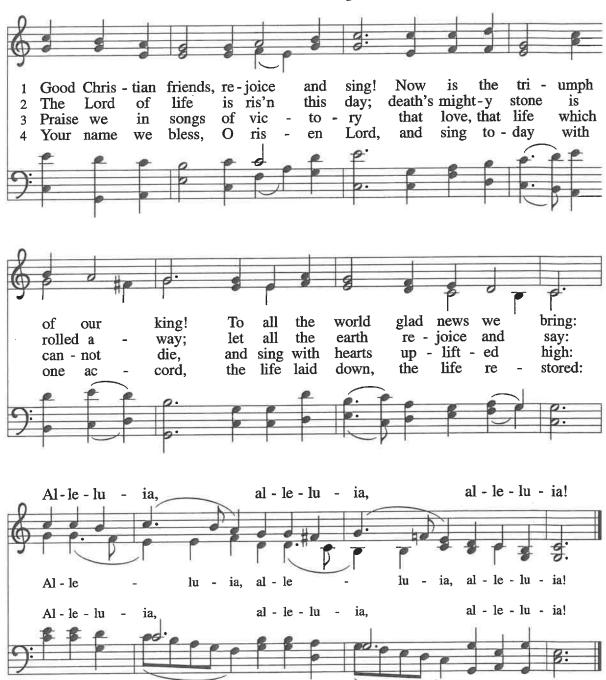
Sustained by God.

WE SUSTAIN THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL'S



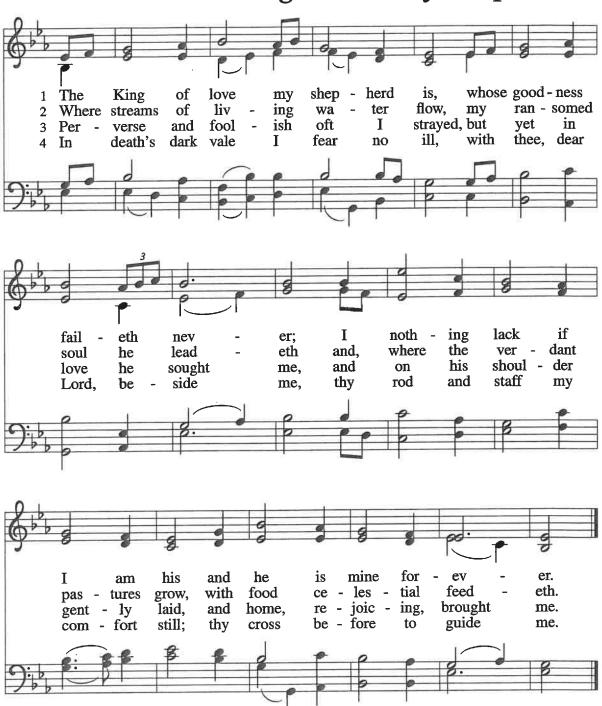
Rejoicing in 180 years!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! 385



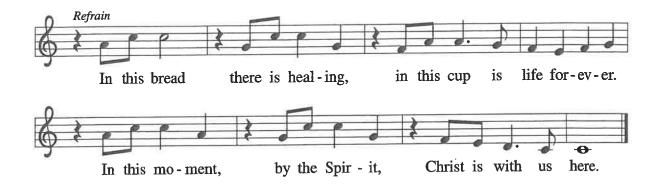
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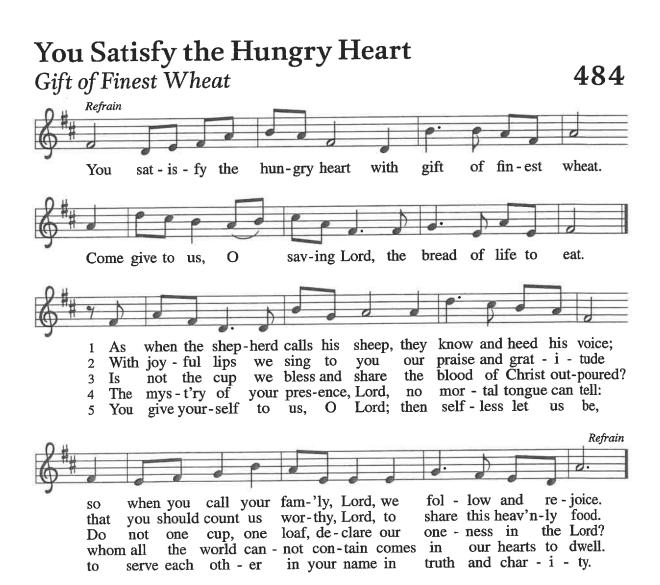
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.

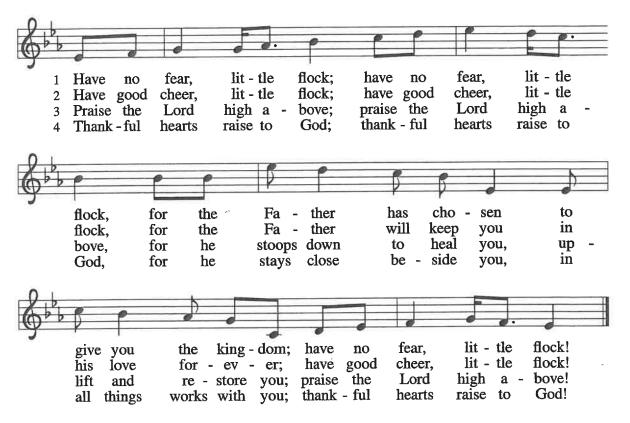
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.





764

Have No Fear, Little Flock



Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2–4 Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House LITTLE FLOCK 66766

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

619



- He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

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