

# Sunday, April 21, 2024

## Third Sunday of Easter



### 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.*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**



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.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## **Gathering Hymn: ELW #720 “We Are Called”**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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.**



*Please be seated while the children come forward.*

## **Children's Time**

## **The Word - Readings**

### **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.*

<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."

**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)*

<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.**



## 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.*

<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.

**Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand in body or spirit for the Gospel Acclamation and reading of the gospel.*

### Gospel Acclamation





## **Gospel: John 10:11-18**

The Gospel according to John the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **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:] <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.**

## **Sermon**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of the Day: ELW #502 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

## **The 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 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, and on the margins. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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,  
**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**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.*

## **Offering – Collection of our offerings.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## **Offering Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

## **THE MEAL**

## **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.**

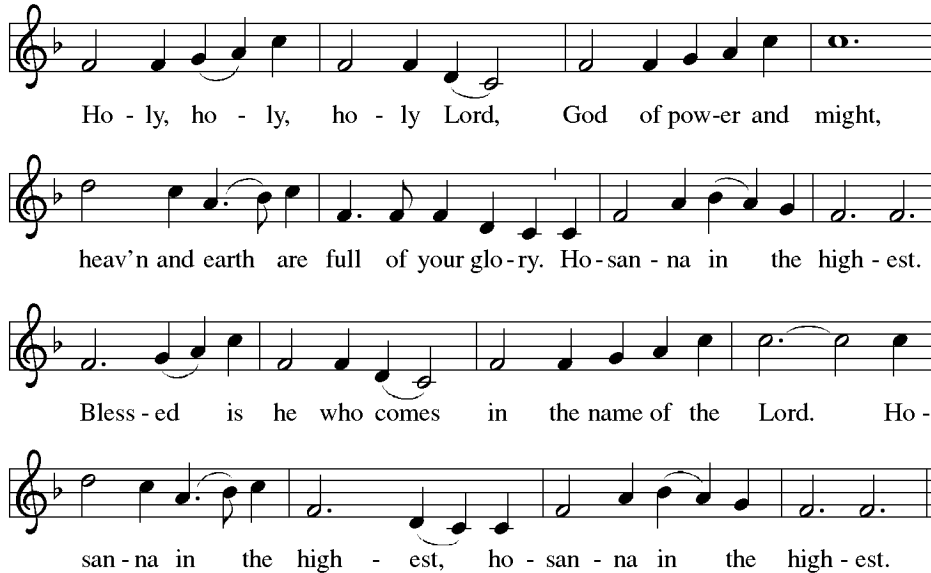
## **PROPER PREFACE**

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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.



And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy**



### **The Words of Institution**

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.





## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

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

*Please be seated and wait to come forward for Holy Communion after the singing of The Lamb of God song.*

## Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Hymn During Communion: ELW #778 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”**  
(Sing continuously)

## Blessing after Communion

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds Amen.*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

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.  
**Amen.**



## Sending Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: ELW #715 “Christ, Be Our Light”

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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**Today's Lay Leaders**

**Lector:** Katie Schmidt

**Ushers:** George & Gloria Becker

**Communion Assistant:**  
Deanna Posig

**Altar Guild:**  
Deanna Posig

**Music & Worship Coordinator:**  
Barb Regent

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Dean Willich, Interim Pastor  
Crystal A. Roider, Office Manager

Thank you, Rev. Marilyn Miller for presiding over worship today!

Altar flowers in memory of Larry M.



**We pray for those in need:**

Tom Nowakowski who entered rehab and for continued strength for Jeanette during this time;  
Betty Wing who will be having a temporary stent replaced in her kidney on April 30th;  
Darlene Witkowiak who is battling various health issues;  
Bernice Young who has several medical appointments in the future due to various health issues;  
Tom Polaski, friend of Ted and Mardy Lazaris, who is battling cancer;  
Brandi who lost her valiant battle with cancer and her family and friends (Bednar's) who are grieving;  
Kayla, daughter of Athena Minto, who is being tested for autoimmune illnesses;  
Nancy Czarapata's brother-in-law who was diagnosed with cancer;  
Karen, sister of Sandy Ringwall;  
Anne, friend of Sandy Young;  
Ray, friend of Jan Rinderle;  
Victoria (Deanna Posig) who has cancer;  
Scott Kaczor, cousin of Sandy Witt, who is having prostate cancer surgery;  
Ethel Bach, sister of Jeanette Nowakowski, with white lung disease;  
Earlann Wilson, sister of Jeanette Nowakowski, with cancer;  
Anne, friend of Sandy Young;  
Victoria, with cancer (Deanna Posig);  
Joyce, with cancer (Jan Rinderle);  
The Nelson/Hartman family;  
Felicia Bruyette, sister-in-law of Kelly (Jeff) Faltersack;  
Cecilia, friend of Jill Lindberg, who is battling aggressive breast cancer;  
Mary, Sandy Young's sister;  
Jerry, Bruce Crueger's brother;  
Karen, Sandy Ringwall's sister;  
Joy Braun, friend of Sue Clark;  
Amy & Family, friends of Kathy Wakefield;  
John Imp;  
Cheryl Hagfors

**We continue to pray for strength for:**

Kathy Imp;  
Marylee Dye;  
Ruth Bauer;  
Pat Koch;  
Nancy Czarapata;  
Joani Bettin;  
Donna Babilus;  
Jan Zeit;  
Mary Anne Markiewicz;  
Ivy Rose Eigner, granddaughter of Sandy & Charlie;  
Craig Beyler, recovering from foot surgery;  
Dori Timmerman, recovering from foot surgery;  
Linda and Donna, Betty Wing's sisters

**We keep in our prayers:**

Dawn (friend of Sandy and Bob Young);  
Pat (cousin of Donna Babilus);  
Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris);  
Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law);  
Susan (Darlene Witkowiak's daughter);  
Jeremy (Tom Nowakowski's nephew);  
Caroline (Jill Lindberg's daughter)

**We pray for the following with our siblings across the ELCA:**

For justice and peace among nations where war and violence rage, especially Palestine and Israel, Iran, Myanmar, Iraq, Haiti, Russia and Ukraine, and South Sudan...

For people in Central and South America affected by the dengue fever outbreak...

For farmers and farm laborers as spring arrives...

For peaceful and fair elections in India beginning this week...

For corals that will die and ecosystems that will suffer as ocean temperatures rise...

For communities grieving gun violence, especially New Orleans, Louisiana; Salisbury, North Carolina; and Chicago, Illinois...

For areas of the nation experiencing storms and severe weather...

For safety, understanding, and earnest dialogue amidst protests in Illinois, California, New York, and Oregon...

***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

