

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

April 21, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

GATHER

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The beauty of the Creator inspire us, the grace of the Good Shepherd be with us, and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

May it be so!

Here is water. Rushing water. Surging water. Pounding, crashing surf of water. Foaming waters to wash us clean, to scrub away the guilt, the burden that clings, to wipe away the grime of archived fear. Blessed be water.

We give you thanks, Creator God, for sea and ocean, tides and waves.

Here is water. Tumbling water. Streaming water. Free-flowing-shower-of-grace water. Bubbling fount to soothe our hearts, balm for the scars of angry division, salve for the wounds of ignorant pride. Blessed be water.

We give you thanks, creative Word, for rain and snow, storm and mist.

Here is water. Clear water. Cool water. Quench-the-thirst-of-our-soul water. Still waters to restore our spirits, source of hope, refreshment for the journey toward the fold, sparkling with the promise of new life. Blessed be water.

We give you thanks, creating Spirit, for stream and pool, spring and lake.

Here is water, through which God created and continues to create. In the beginning, weaving with the Breath of life every living being; throughout history, a gateway for divine deliverance; in every moment, re-memorating the mystery of life, bonding all creation as one.

We give you thanks, blessed Creator, for the gift of life, for this water without which life would cease, for the gift of baptism, through which these waters birth us again into your promise of newness, wholeness, and oneness. Blessed be this water that births us, renews us, and welcomes us home.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

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

Acts 4:5-12

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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 - in song

Shepherd Me, O God

#780

1 John 3:16-24

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Del Olivier

Hymn of the Day

Touch that Soothes and Heals
See My Hands and Feet

(see back of bulletin)

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 the People

Response: We pray, hear us, risen Lord.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

Musical Offering *Bwana Awabariki (May God Grant You a Blessing)*

Offering Prayer

Whatever we ask, in accordance with your will, we receive and our cup overflows. Confident in divine abundance and humbly eager to turn from covetous greed, we return what we have received for the Shepherd's work, that green pastures and safe folds will welcome any who live in fear; that peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts; that a voice of welcome will be heard at each gate; that a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst; and all may safely graze. In the name of the One who is our comfort.

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.

Preface

Sanctus (Ylvisaker)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of all creation,
Heav'n and earth are filled with you, God of our salvation.

Blessed is the king who comes to sanctify us.
Praises let us sing: "Hosanna in the highest."

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of all creation,
Heav'n and earth are filled with you, God of our salvation.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

*Come. Let Us Eat
Day of Arising*

#491

#374 (tune: Morning has Broken)

Prayer After Communion

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.**

Closing Song

May God Bless Us



Bwa - na a - wa - ba - ri - ki, Bwa - na a - wa - ba - ri - ki,
May God bless us and keep us; may God bless us and keep us;



Bwa - na a - wa - ba - ri - ki mi - le - le.
may God bless us and keep us ev - er - more.



U - ki - mcha Bwa - na; Bwa - na a - wa - ba - ri - ki.
Re-vere the Lord; . . . may God bless us and keep us.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Worship Participants

Ministers: All the members
Guest Pastor: Pastor Del Olivier
DYME: Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist: Sharen Borchers
Pianist: Kris Kistenmacher
Lector: Gary Jensen
Deacons: Andrew Butcher and Braden Else
Greeter: Dixie Brueck
Acolytes: Aiden Stevenson and Trinity Stevenson
Special Music: Sounds of Celebration bell choir
Sound & Video: Dave Kistenmacher and Tyler Gebers
Coffee Hosts: Gary and Sandy Jensen
Audrey Dittmer

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, April 21~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

SUNDAY, April 28 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

Hymn of the Day

Touch That Soothes and Heals
See My Hands and Feet



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and last. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

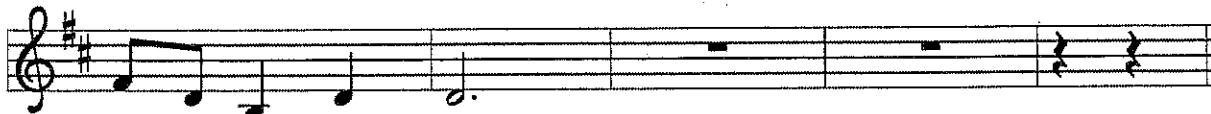
Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972

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