

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
25 April 2021



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 sister or brother in need.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist. Although not an apostle, St. Mark wrote the earliest gospel. Tradition has it that he went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, became the first bishop there and was martyred.

✝ GATHERING ✝

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Loving God,

C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against You in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. Amen.

P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthened daily with the power to walk in God's light and love.

C. Amen.

GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast of Victory for Our God

Pastor:



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

Congregation:



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

+ WORD +

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.

The 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.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul and guides me along right pathways
for His name's sake.
Yea, 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 spread a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely Your 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.

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. 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.
C. Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. 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.

C. 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.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.
C. Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is your name. In pas - tures fresh you make me feed,
 is my stay; one word of your sup - port - ing breath
 all my days; oh, may your house be my a - bode



be - side the liv - ing stream. You bring my wan - d'ring
 drives all my fears a - way. Your hand, in sight of
 and all my work be praise. Here would I find a



spir - it back when I for - sake your ways, and lead me,
 all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread; my cup with
 set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come; no more a



for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

+ PRAYER +

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

He Is Arisen, Glorious Word

He is a - ris - en! Glo-rious Word! Now rec - on-ciled is God, my
Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen. My Je - sus rose tri -
um-phant-ly, And Sa-tan's ar - rows bro-ken lie, De-stroyed hell's

fierc - est weap - on. Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing
glo - rious, Life is giv - ing. He was dead, but now is liv - ing!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Led by the Good Shepherd Who knows His own and Whom we know, call us to Your loving embrace. Strengthen Your church throughout the world that we bear witness to Your expansive love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

Let to quiet places of rest and renewal, let us pray for the protection and preservation of countryside and wilderness, parks and reserves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

Led to a table of plenty where everyone is welcome, let us pray for relief agencies, soup kitchens, food pantries, and for all who are fed by them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

Let through dark places and difficult circumstances, let us pray for the lost, the discouraged, the lonely, and for all who are ill or in need or care and tending. We pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia and Jim, Norma, and Brad. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

Led to the life-giving waters of baptism, let us pray for the newly baptized, especially Myles Anderson, as they grow in wisdom and understanding. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

Led at the last to our eternal home, let us soothe the dying, comfort all who mourn, and give thanks for the faithful departed. Gather us with them to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to You, trusting in Your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. Amen.

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.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

P. May the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

DISMISSAL

P. Christ is Risen!

C. He is Risen indeed!

P. Go in peace and share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God Presiding: Pastor Munter

Organist: Terry Dybsetter Reader:

Camera: Josh Sumption Projection: James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
&Lillie Wollum

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658

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Bethel web page: www.bethelofporter.com

April 18, 2021

General: \$1,149.50 (\$929.50 received through eGiving)

April 20, 2021

General: \$737.82 transferred from savings

Includes: \$645.41 for new microphone. \$70.00 for Faith Chest. \$22.41 for Sunday School Supplies.



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridal
Brad Danielson, Norma Dovre



Yesterday we welcomed Myles Brooks Anderson into the family of God. Myles is the son of Mark and Ashley Anderson. Myles' sponsors are Alex Whittier and Megan Driessen. We joyfully receive Myles Brooks into our community and accept our responsibilities in nurturing his life of faith.

BLOODMOBILE

The Former Schotts Building 104 11th St.

Thursday, April 29th, 1pm-7pm

Friday, April 30th, 8am-1pm

FOR APPOINTMENT CALL:

Jodi @ 507-828-9709

Deloris @ 507-223-7205/507-530-3476

or go to redcrossblood.org to sign up for an appointment

Acknowledgements

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