

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prelude Susan Berg, Organist

Announcements

Opening Songs "Here I Am to Worship" Praise Band
"Communion" and Congregation
"Thy Word"

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross.

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 the water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:5-12

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John,^[a] and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners^[b] 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 being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed,^[c] 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,^[d] whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus^[e] is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’^[f]

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

SALVATION
is
found
in
no
one
else.”
ACTS 4:12, NIV

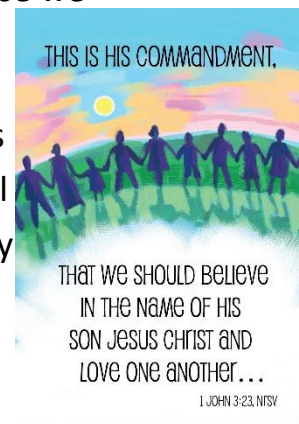
SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ 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?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, 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.

²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.



GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

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

Sermon

“THANKLESS JOBS”

Sermon Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
Song Leaders and Congregation

Hymn 836
(vv. 1-3)



*“There will be
one flock, one shepherd.”*
JOHN 10:16

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, after the resurrection, our lesson from Acts records the disciples' response to questions from the high priestly family. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed salvation through Jesus Christ to the very people who had crucified God's Son. He said, *"Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead... the stone which was rejected by you builders, has become the head of the corner... there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
Lord in your mercy...

Peter's message was affirmed in 1 John, *"And this is [God's] commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us... And we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us."* **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that this message of salvation now would be spread throughout the earth by us, just as it was commanded by Jesus to the disciples. He would guide them like a shepherd, as John quoted Jesus' words, *"I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me."* With the resurrection, those who knew Jesus confirmed the story of his life which was full of good deeds and miracles. So today, we who have experienced Him in the 21st century confirm his deity and the truth of his promise of salvation to all people everywhere who believe. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and resurrection victory. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

Jesus gave us a tangible definition of God's love in 1 John, when he said, *"By this we know love, that [Jesus] laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren... Little children, let us... love in ... deed and in truth."* Those are our marching orders: to love others with God's word and action. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. **Amen.**

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "Seek Ye First" by Karen Lafferty
Choral Ensemble and The Good Shepherd Chimes

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

It takes some of us a lifetime to learn that Christ, our Good Shepherd, knows exactly what he is doing with us. He understands us perfectly.

—Phillip Keller

This story is about how a well-known hymn emerged from the horror of the American Civil War, and is told by the author of the lyrics, Joseph Gilmore.

He had been speaking at a mid-week service in March 1862, and his subject was Psalm 23. It was a text with which he was quite familiar for he had used it several times in his ministry. This time, however, he couldn't get past the words, "He leadeth me." The entire verse is "He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul" (KJV). He said, "Those words took hold of me as they had never done before, and I saw them in a significance and wondrous beauty of which I had never dreamed."

He went on to explain that "It was the darkest hour of the Civil War. ... [I] realized that God's leadership is the one significant fact in human experience, that it makes no difference how we are led, or whither we are led, so long as we are sure God is leading us."

After the service, he grabbed a blank sheet of paper and quickly scrawled out the words to a hymn as though inspired by the Holy Spirit. Later, unbeknownst to him, his wife sent the lyrics to a publisher. They were set to music, and, in subsequent decades and to this day, continue to provide inspiration and comfort to those who hear it or sing it.

*He leadeth me, O blessèd thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

—Timothy Merrill. Adapted from Hymnary.org.

Prayer: Loving God, I praise your name for being my Shepherd and for leading me to green pastures and still waters. Thank you for your loving care! In Jesus' name. Amen.



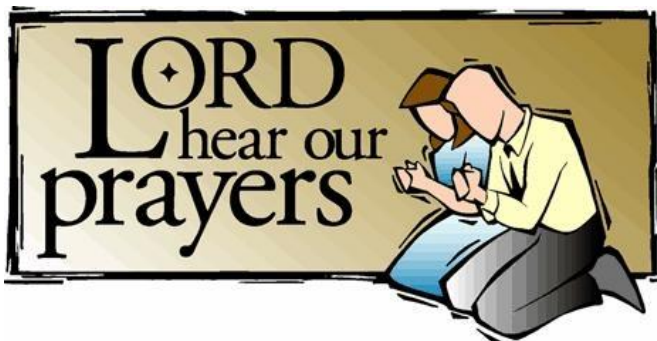
Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Bill Slusser
Betty Montgomery
Jennifer Neer
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Dee Wright
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Baby Owen (Fake)
Claire and family upon the death
of Claire's husband, Dale Baumbach
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)
Owen (Fake)
Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)
Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The 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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Communion Hymn

“Here Is Bread”
Song Leaders and Congregation

Hymn 483
(vv. 1-3)

Closing Song

“Majestic”

Praise Band
and Congregation

Sending

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

Postlude

Susan Berg, Organist

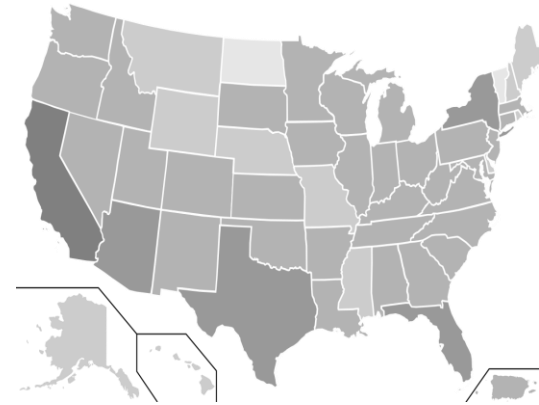


Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 7-9; **Monday:** Joshua 19-21; **Tuesday:** Joshua 22-24; **Wednesday:** Judges 1-4; **Thursday:** Judges 5-8; **Friday:** Judges 9-12; **Saturday:** Psalms 37-39

HOW MANY STATES HAVE YOU VISITED?

We live in a beautiful country with many national parks and big cities. Our country features rugged mountains, sprawling farmland, deserts and spectacular coastlines. This activity will help you relive some of your experiences. Place a check mark beside each state you have visited. Think about what you did, or who you saw, while there. Perhaps you visited a friend or family member, or went to a museum and saw some wonderful scenic areas. The next time a friend comes to visit you, show them your list. Ask them what states they have visited.



THE 50 STATES OF THE U.S.A.							
State	✓	State	✓	State	✓	State	✓
Alabama		Indiana		Nebraska		S. Carolina	
Alaska		Iowa		Nevada		S. Dakota	
Arizona		Kansas		N. Hampshire		Tennessee	
Arkansas		Kentucky		New Jersey		Texas	
California		Louisiana		New Mexico		Utah	
Colorado		Maine		New York		Vermont	
Connecticut		Maryland		N. Carolina		Virginia	
Delaware		Massachusetts		North Dakota		Washington	
Florida		Michigan		Ohio		W. Virginia	
Georgia		Minnesota		Oklahoma		Wisconsin	
Hawaii		Mississippi		Oregon		Wyoming	
Idaho		Missouri		Pennsylvania			
Illinois		Montana		Rhode Island			



“April showers bring forth May flowers.” —English



AS THE
DEER

**PANTS FOR STREAMS
OF WATER,
SO MY
SOUL
PANTS
FOR
YOU**

**MY
GOD**

Psalm 42:1

