**Worship Plan for Sunday, April 25, 2021**

4 Easter

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Sunday, April 25, 2021

**Introduction to the day**

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.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**April 25, 2021**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Abundant Care**

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God’s story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it’s interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God’s presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the “I am” sayings of Jesus, like those found in today’s gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God’s abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don’t always feel the immediacy of God’s care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God’s provision doesn’t seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: “I know my own” (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus’ name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**RECORD**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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.**

**Announcements**

Some notes on the service, as you have seen, I will remove my face mask when I am up speaking in order to not impede the sound, replacing it when I am done.

Also, if you need to exit at any time during the service, please feel free to. We just ask that as you exit, please be careful and look around for other cars.

Monday: Hymn Planners meet at 9:00 on Zoom; Council meets at 1:00 on Zoom.

Tuesday:

Wednesday: WELCA Leaders at the church at 9:30am

Thursday:

Other: Saturday May 1st, Amy and Roderick Sinclair and I will be attending our virtual Synod Assembly, so wish us luck as we navigate the assembly from afar.

May 2 will be an online service since I will be out of town for vacation. No in-person service that Sunday.

May 9, Mother's Day, we will be resuming indoor worship at limited capacity, starting with the 2nd group. That means that if your last name starts with the letters L-Z you are welcome to come inside. If you are not in that group you are still welcome to come and listen in on the radio in the parking lot and then come inside the week after on May 16th as you switch off. For full details, you can call the office or look to the upcoming forecaster for more details.

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**And now please turn to page \_\_\_\_**

**Gathering Song*Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!* ( LBW 133)**

[Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won! (Melody).tif](file:///C:\Users\jbart\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_Worship%20Plan%20for%20Sunday,%20April%2025,%202021.zip\Jesus%20Lives!%20The%20Victory's%20Won!%20(Melody).tif)

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth,

our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,

and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.*

**Prayer of the Day**

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.

**Amen.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading:**

A reading from Acts.

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.**

**Second Reading:**

A reading from 1 John.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:**

The holy gospel according to John.

**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.**

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to page \_\_\_\_**

**Hymn of the Day*The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (LBW 456)**

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**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (especially). Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities (specific concerns may be named), fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (especially the evangelist Mark). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Prayer List**

Gloria Anderson;  Nancy Blackmer; Julie Chevraux; Vicki Crow; Gale Eury; Joni Gray; Bill Hallahan; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Francis Key; Iver & Lois Linge; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Ron Neumen; Tina Peteroski & Peggy Wharton & family; Edy Rose; Dee Seel; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Earlean Wagner; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests.

If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

**Prayer in Pandemic**

Merciful God, you give us the grace that helps in time of need. Almighty God, your love never fails. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence.

God of health and healing, surround us with your steadfast love and lighten our burden. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones.

We also hold in prayer our healthcare providers, first responders, essential workers, and all who continue to serve so that others can maintain safety. By the power of your Spirit, free us from distress and give us a new mind and a heart made whole in the name of the risen Christ.

Amen

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship.

Instead of passing around the offering plate, we ask that you continue to mail your offerings to the church, to drop them off during office hours, or use your bank's bill pay service. We take this offering time to give thanks for God’s gifts. One of those gifts is our community of Faith Lutheran Church and the gift of keeping us together through the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of our Faith family.

This month we are highlighting the ministry of\_\_Small Groups\_\_\_. And the spiritual gifts of

 EXHORTATION, FAITH, PASTORAL, INTERCESSION

“BE STRONG AND  
BOLD... I, THE LORD, WILL BE WITH YOU.” (Deuteronomy 31:23)

The apostle Paul describes Spiritual Gifts in 1 Corinthians saying: “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

Your offering, gathered in praise of God, helps to activate this ministry by \_\_funding the worship resources like Sunday and Seasons and for the ZOOM membership which has been essential to our groups meeting safely over the last year\_\_. We all share our gratitude to all of you and your gifts which make it possible.

So thank you for the phone calls to each other, for your prayers for each other, for all the ways you give your gifts to God’s church and one another.

Thank you so much!

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**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.**

**INSTRUCTION OF COMMUNION AT HOME**

Let us pray,

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,

be present with those who partake and share your word and sacrament. We remember you in the celebration of the sacrament and remember that you unite us as the body of Christ whether we are together in-person or together while apart.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,

and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence

through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Now, please gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.For those without, know that the restoration and healing found in this sacrament still reach you wherever you are.

 These Words of Institution bless the eucharistic elements wherever you are, trusting in the all-reaching power and grace of God to provide the complete and total sacrament to us all in these extraordinary times when we come to Christ's table in our own way and our own place.

After the words of institution, you may commune saying:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

And so,

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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [  name/s and  ] your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page \_\_\_\_**

**Sending Song*Have No Fear, Little Flock* ( LBW 476)**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

Thank you for joining us in worship today! In order to exit, please allow the middle rows to exit first, starting with the cars closest to the exit. Please allow the car in front of you to go first and if you are not ready to exit yet, please wave the next car to go ahead of you, and then you will wait to the end to exit yourself. Once the middle rows have gone, the front row can then follow them. Finally, as you leave you may also want to turn your volume down on your radio if you turned it up at the beginning of the service so so it isn't too loud when you turn to another channel.

We look forward to seeing you next week.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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