

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER
April 25, 2021
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHERING

Prelude/Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

P: Lord you are a present help in trouble. **C: Come revive, Redeem, Restore.**

P: In our darkness, come as light. **C: In our sadness, come as joy; In our troubles, come as peace.** P: In our weakness, come as strength. Come Lord, to our aid. **C: Revive, Redeem, Restore us.**

-Tides and Seasons by David Adam.

Opening Hymn: No. 676 “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”

Confession of Sin:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all of our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Lesson: Acts 4:5-12

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 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, 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. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Here ends the first lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

C: 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 prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24

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. 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. 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.

Here ends the second lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand in honor of the reading of the gospel. The Holy Gospel is taken from **John 10:11-18**

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day No. 789 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Affirmation of Faith:

C: We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion. He died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire; life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

From Iona Community; Scotland

Prayer of the Church

Re: Lord in your mercy: C: Hear our prayer

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

Mission Moment

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: God of love, you call us beloved children. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

GOD'S PEOPLE SENT FORTH

Benediction

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father + and of the Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

Sending Hymn No. 767 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Welcome! Great to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today.

The Worship Radio Broadcast today is sponsored in honor of Fern Horton's 96th birthday which was February 25th by Dwight & Sheila Horton.

† **Continuing Prayer Concerns:** Dennis Hazelton, Val Carmondy, Janice Harkema, John Dubbelde, Sarah Meyer, Jeanine Olson and Barb Barduson as they deal with health issues.

This Week's Schedule – April 25, 2021

Today 9:30am Worship at Church and live streamed

Wednesday 6:15pm Confirmation

Sunday 9:30am Worship/Holy Communion at Church and live streamed

Ministers Members of First Lutheran Church

Pastor Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp

Music "YouTube"

Sound Jason Weber/Mark Zinnel

Reader Lori Ilse

Question of the Month for April 2021

_____What's your favorite Easter tradition? Please email your response to henriksen7@mchsi.com

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