

4th Sunday of Easter



St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson
8:30AM • April 25, 2021

Announcements

Prelude: *"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"* #843

Vs 1: Praise the One who breaks the darkness, With a liberating light, Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight, Praise the One who preached the gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands, With the very bread of peace

Vs 2: Praise the One who blessed the children, With a strong yet gentle word, Praise the One who drove
out demons, With a piercing two-edged sword, Praise the One who brings cool water,
To the desert's burning sand, From this well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Vs 3: Praise the One true love incarnate, Christ who suffered in our place, Jesus died and rose for many,
That we may know God by grace, Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done,
Praise the One redeeming glory, Praise the One who makes us one.

The Easter Litany:

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light
and our salvation. C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness: P: Faithful and Just God,

C: We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have
not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your
Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life
given in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord. Amen

P: Christ suffered for sins, once for all, in order to bring you to God. Now you are God's people; now you
have received mercy. In the name of the risen + Lord Jesus, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven.
Lay aside guilt, put away shame, for you are chosen and precious in God's sight. Live in the marvelous
light of Christ. C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* #502

Verse 1: The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Verse 2: Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Verse 3: Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

Verse 4: In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Verse 5: Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

Verse 6: And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

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.

Psalm 23: *read by Henry Ludwig* ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. ²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. ³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. ⁴Though 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. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gospel Acclamation: *"Hallelujah" 2X (Please stand as you are able)*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah...Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-18 ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 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."

Children's Sermon

Sermon *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day: *"Shepherd Me, O God" #780*

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Vs. 1: God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. [Refrain]

Vs. 2: Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your Name. [Refrain]

Vs. 3: Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. [Refrain]

Vs. 4: You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. [Refrain]

Apostles' 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, & 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, & he will come to judge the living & 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, & the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

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. *A brief silence.* 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.**

God of compassion, you sew mercy into justice and justice into mercy. Be with the entire state of Minnesota this week. May people of all shapes, sizes, and colors, law enforcement, people with different religious backgrounds, urban dwellers, and rural dwellers work for each other's good as much as we work for our own, personal good. May we see our good future wrapped up in the care we give each other. 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; Gabriel Ryan, Ruth Holm, Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Naomi Berland, Dean Kirkland, Don & Ella Hadler, Lloyd Roschen, Finley Budensiek, Brent Hokanson, Keith Carlson, Karl Thomforde, Connie Ludwig, Billy Voth & the families of Jordis Howard and Erich & Kari Hemenway. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord God we thank you for new members joining our faith community this past year. Thank you for the gifts and witness of Gerald Meyer, Robby, Jacki, Drew and Jorli Ebner, Jill Ramboldt, Haylee & Colton Hall, Brett Dankers, and Brittany Sanborn. Unite us as one body of Christ to be your hands and feet in our community. 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. 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.**

Sharing the Peace:

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering & Doxology: Oh, Worship the King, all glorious above; Almighty, God's son in power and love. Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end; Our maker, defender, redeemer & friend.

Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

C: **God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. 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.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you**

L: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

Salutation

Holy, Holy, Holy! #413 Vs. 1-2

Vs 1: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

Vs 2: Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which were, and art, and evermore shalt be.

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; & forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; & lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

Lamb of God: "I Received the Living God" #477

**Refrain: I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.**

**Vs 1: Jesus said: I am the bread kneaded long to give you life;
you who will partake of me need not ever fear to die. [Refrain]**

**Vs 2: Jesus said: I am the way, and my Father longs for you;
so I come to bring you home to be one with us anew. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: Jesus said: I am the truth; come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free. [Refrain]**

**Vs. 4: Jesus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,
but receive this living bread, and my Spirit you shall know. [Refrain]**

Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

**C: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still
around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

Sending: "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us" #789

**Verse 1: Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, you have bought us, we our yours;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, you have bought us, we our yours;**

**Verse 2: We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, hear us children when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, hear us children when we pray;**

**Verse 3: You hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, early let us turn to you;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, early let us turn to you;**

**Verse 4: Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;**

Dismissal:

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: "Go Tell It On a Mountain" Refrain 2X

Go Tell it on the Mountain, over the hills and everywhere, go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ still lives!

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