



April 21, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

- ♪ 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 are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ You have 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.
- ♪ Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 711-Text: Hymns for the Young, 4th ed., London 1836;
Tune: William B. Bradbury 1816-68; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

This is the day that the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Beautiful Savior”

♪ Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

♪ Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

♪ Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

♪ Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 537- Text: Munsterisch Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677, tr. Joseph A. Seiss 1823-1904
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent., setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain.

First Reading

Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the 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 examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you 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—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

- ♪ Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- ♪ For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- ♪ Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- ♪ Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 463-Text: Wipo of Burgundy d.c. 1050, tr. Jane E. Leeson 1809-81

Tune: Robert Williams 1781-1821, setting: John Roberts 1822-77; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 10:11–18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

- ♪ The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
- ♪ Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
- ♪ Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- ♪ And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 709-Text: Henry W. Baker 1821-77; Tune: Irish, 18th cent.;
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Humble Healing”

Acts 4:1–12

Offering and Musical Offering

Admonition to Communicants *Please Stand*

Lord’s Prayer

Sanctus Hymn *Music: “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name” Hymn 917* “Isaiah, Mighty Seer”

- ♪ Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old, The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.
- ♪ Above the throne were flaming seraphim; Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight.
- ♪ And with the other two aloft they soared; One to the other called and praised the Lord:
“Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!”
- ♪ Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth! His glory fills the heavens and the earth!”
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry.
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 960-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; ©1941 Concordia Publishing House;
Tune: Edward J. Hopkins 1818-1901; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Risen and living Lord, Jesus Christ,

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Risen and living Lord, Jesus Christ,

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Risen and living Lord, Jesus Christ,

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.

Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ~Great is...

♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. ~Great is....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 809 - Text: Thomas O. Chisholm 1866-1960; Tune: William M. Runyan 1870-1957

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“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

♪ Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise,

While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,

Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

♪ Here I raise my Ebenezer*, Hither by Thy help I've come;

And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

♪ Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;

Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, O take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.

♪ Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;

Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;

Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 686-Text: Robert Robinson 1735-90

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg 1813; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

*"Ebenezer" means "Thus far has the Lord helped us" and was the name given to the stone of remembrance. 1 Samuel 7:12

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer and fill us with Your joy!

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

- ♪ The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.
- ♪ My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E’en for His own name’s sake.
- ♪ Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou are with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.
- ♪ My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
- ♪ Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 710 -Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh 1650;
Tune: William Gardiner 1770-1853; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Doman; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude