

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024 11:00 am

April 24, 2024 7:00 pm

The Lord's Supper at St. Paul

God's Word teaches the real presence of Christ's body and blood invisibly in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. We take seriously the spiritual care of those who commune at our altar. It is important that every partaker must be a baptized Christian and come with repentant faith. The Word of God states that no one offend against Christ and His Word by denying His true presence and its promise and seal of forgiveness. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Cor. 11:27-29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of what is taught and believed at this altar (1 Cor. 11:26), any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession (beliefs) differing from that of this congregation (that is, belong to another church body or denomination) and yet desire to receive the sacrament, should first speak with the pastor before communing. As a courtesy, guests from sister congregations of the LCMS or from congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) are also asked to introduce themselves to the pastor before communing.

As We Gather

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He "will tend His flock like a shepherd" (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!



Preservice Music

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation: 904 “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” *(Please stand for Verse 4)*

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession of Sins

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

**He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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; my cup overflows.**

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

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Kyrie *(Sing responses)*

Mark 10:47

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day: Easter 4 (Three-Year Lectionary)

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.

First Reading: Acts 4:1–12 *(Please be seated)*

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. (*Spoken response*)

Thanks be to God.

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.

Sunday Only: Vocal Choir: "Once Again"

Wednesday Only: Alleluia and Verse *(Please stand)*

John 6:68

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel: John 10:11–18 *(Please stand, sing responses)*

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.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Children's Hymn of the Month “He is Lord” *(Please be seated)*

**He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.**

He’s my....

He’s our...

Children's Object lesson

Hymn of the Day: 709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Sermon “I Know My Own” (John 10:11-18)

Offering *(Sunday morning only)*

Offertory *(Please stand)*

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Prayer of the Church

Preface *(Sing responses)*

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

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

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

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

Distribution of the Sacrament *(Please be seated)*

Distribution Hymn: 711 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Distribution Hymn: 809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Thank the Lord *(Please stand)*

[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10]

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

**He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

Hymn to Depart *(Please be seated)*



1 Sav - ior, I fol - low on, Guid - ed by Thee,
2 Riv - en the rock for me Thirst to re - lieve,
3 Of - ten to Ma - rah's brink Have I been brought;
4 Sav - ior, I long to walk Clos - er with Thee;



See - ing not yet the hand That lead - eth me.
Man - na from heav - en falls Fresh ev - 'ry eve.
Shrink - ing the cup to drink, Help I have sought;
Led by Thy guid - ing hand, Ev - er to be



Hushed be my heart and still, Fear I no fur - ther ill,
Nev - er a want se - vere Caus - eth my eye a tear
And with the prayer's as - cent Je - sus the branch hath rent,
Con - stant - ly near Thy side, Quick - ened and pu - ri - fied,



On - ly to meet Thy will My will shall be.
But Thou dost whis - per near, "On - ly be - lieve."
Quick - ly re - lief hath sent, Sweet - 'ning the draught.
Liv - ing for Him who died Free - ly for me.

Text: Charles S. Robinson, 1829–99

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–96

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Tune: Public domain

Leaving

Offering *(Wednesday evening only)*

(The offering plates are in the back of the church.)

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