



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Throughout 2024, our Sunday morning and special services focus on one text from each of the sixty-six books of the Bible. In doing so, we have the opportunity to look at the entire sweep of the biblical witness. The Bible is not sixty-six separate stories but one, cohesive narrative from creation to new creation, centered in Jesus our Savior. This series is created by Rev. Dr. Paul Deterding, teacher emeritus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School.

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 683 *“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” (soloist: v. 1)*

BAPTISM OF CLARA LOU STUENKEL (10:30 am)

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS 1 John 1:8–9

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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.**

P Jesus Christ died for us. He was buried, and He was raised on the third day. In Christ, there is forgiveness. Therefore, 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.

C Amen.

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

INTROIT | Entrance *Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

P I am the good shepherd.

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

P The LORD is my shepherd;

C I shall not want.

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C He leads me beside still waters.

P He restores my soul.

C He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

C your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C 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.

P I am the good shepherd.

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

HYMN OF PRAISE *“This Is the Feast”*

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9; for text and tune, see page 155.

Refrain: (sing) **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

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

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. Refrain**

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

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have awakened 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.



C A - men.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Ephesians 4:4-6*

C There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 37:24-28*

God will unite His people in a covenant of peace with a descendant of the shepherd-king David as the everlasting Shepherd and King.

²⁴[The LORD said:] “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. ²⁵They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall

dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. ²⁶I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. ²⁷My dwelling place shall be with them, and I

will be their God, and they shall be my people. ²⁸Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies

Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:16–24*

Jesus’ death on the cross is the clearest demonstration of love. Receiving this love, we live by God’s commandments.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.*

C (sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:11–18*

Jesus says that He knows His sheep, and His sheep know Him.

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



C Glo - ry 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



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The 8:00 am service continues with the Preface on page 160 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail.

For those who have problems consuming alcohol, you are invited to receive diluted wine from the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups. For those who have dietary restrictions, gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 725 *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

HYMN 731 *“O God, Forsake Me Not”*

HYMN 700 *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship
of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

*The service concludes with the Post-Communion Canticle (“Thank the Lord”),
Post-Communion Collect, and Benediction on pages 164–166.*

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN 740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: Christians fill the concept of "heaven" with all sorts of stuff. But it needs no filling! Heaven is God's presence and in Jesus, that presence is ours now, in this life, and forever in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come! Ezekiel points to this beautiful promise as he foretells Jesus coming to dwell with us. God is with you and that means heaven is yours, now and forever.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Renata Peperkorn, *Organist*

Myka Sullivan, *Soloist (8:00 am)*

Claire Martens, *Soloist (10:30 am)*

Eian Grass, Ryleigh Thompson, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Trenton Beerman, Allie Sayre, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Deb Robinson, *Greeter (8:00 am)*

Kathy Schnakenberg, *Greeter (10:30 am)*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

- **New:** Mary Moss, Vernetta Oetting, Donnie Fiene, Diane Heimsoth, Ed Nierman, Gloria Driver, Kevin Brackman, Rev. Perry Copus
- **Ongoing:** Chad Nuelle, Connie Rehkop, Marilyn Clayton, Vivian Harms, Ann Wolters, Rev. Dr. Leslie Mitkos, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Roger Luedeman, Amy Gerdts, Gloria Burrow, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball
- **Celebration:** Tom & Karen Burrow on their 60th Wedding Anniversary; Eli Dyer & Samantha Brackman who were united in marriage last night

- **Nation and World:** the people of France
- **Partners in Mission:** Redeemer Lutheran Church; Springfield, MO and Rev. Jarod Koenig and Rev. Stephen Moser
- **Birthdays:** (4/21) Connie Maggert, Gregory Wulser; (4/22) Eddie Bingham, Tricia Harrington, Adrien Martens, Braden Phannkuch, Claire Starbuck; (4/23) Joshua Finley, Cindy Flandermeyer, Jesse Kunkel, Anthony Myers; (4/24) Paula Hass, Jordan Inman, Brian Maddox, Deborah Meyer; (4/25) Lori Connell, Lucy Estes, Ethan Hartwig, William Sullivan; (4/26) Geraldine Hartwig, Vanessa Rodewald, Mary Schlueter; (4/27) Tim Bergman, Spencer Duncan, Tatyana Torno
- **Anniversaries:** (4/22) Donald & Rita Fiene; (4/23) Mark & Janice Kirchhoff, Ben & Lauren Renno; (4/24) Ron & Joyce Innes; (4/25) Tom & Karen Burrow, Larry & Linda Mieneka; (4/26) Gary & Connie Martens; (4/27) Chad & Morgan Nuelle

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

“Christ becomes more real to those who persist in cultivating His presence.”
(Streams in the Desert pg. 213) I had this phrase highlighted in my devotions from times past. As I reread it, there were two words that grabbed my attention...***persist*** and ***cultivating***. When we cultivate an area to be planted, we don’t just work the soil and walk away. It then has to be planted and tended to. Weeds grow and threaten to choke out the desirable plants. That soil needs watering and sometimes a little fertilizer. This takes persistence on our part. Leading the Christian life and growing our faith takes a little persistence, too. Everyday struggles are real because the enemy knows what wears us down. Satan would take great delight in choking us off from the source of our strength, and Satan does not play fair. He is a real and powerful threat. That is why persistence in God’s Word is crucial. Prepare your hearts to receive that Word, plant it firmly there, and then persist in cultivating that relationship with the One who chose you.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Revelation 20:1–15; 1 John 4:1–11; John 15:1–8

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 633, 464, 466, 594 (*My First Hymnal* 118), 480, 825

“Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity.”

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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