

## MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy (music on screen)**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,  
**A: 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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

## COMMUNION MUSIC VIDEO

“Then Christ Came” by Mercy Me

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**A: Amen.**

## SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

### BLESSING

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope, ✝ bless you now and always.

**A: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN-

“I the Lord of Sea and Sky” ELW 574 (Vs. 1 & 3)

## DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**A: Thanks be to God! Alleluia**

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**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

**Worship Steward:** Marty Heller

**Greeters:** Ted & Ginger Bauknecht

**Ushers:** Karen Hoegger & Judy Sykes

**Lector:** Dawn Boitnott

**Communion Prep:** Pat Lund

**Comm. Asst:** Denny & Mary Leach

**Hospitality:** Ginger Bauknecht & Gail Thorson

**Musician:** Julie Mehlberg

**SS Teacher:** Betsy Westergreen

**Counters:** Carrie Leuker & Marvin Miller

**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**April 21, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Introduction:** The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thank you to Rosemary Sutton for sponsoring Altar Flowers in honor of Lesli Krall's birthday.*

“Reckless Love” (Prelude)

## GATHERING HYMNS

“For All You've Done” (Words on Screen)

“Touch that Soothes and Heals” Bulletin Insert (Vs. 1 & 3)

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**A: Amen.**

L: Look, here is water!

**A: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

L: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**A: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

L: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

L: Look, here is water!

**A: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## GREETING

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## Children's Message—Dismissal to Children's Chapel

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

**First Reading- Acts 4:5-12**

L: A reading from Acts

L<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the corner-stone.' <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

L: A reading from Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

L: Holy wisdom; Holy Word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading – 1 John 16-24

L: A reading from 1 John

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” (Words on Screen)**

## Gospel - John 10:11-18

L: The Holy Gospel according to John

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Have no Fear Little Flock” (ELW 764)

## APOSTLE'S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**A: 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, and 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, and he will come to judge the living and 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, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS RECOGNITION

### Address and Questions

*The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.*

L: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Teresa Masching, Carissa Webster, David & Katie Longstreet & family wishes to continue in the covenant of baptism among God's people at St Paul Lutheran. Teresa, Carissa, David & Katie, if this is your desire say Yes, by the help of God.

### New Members: Yes, by the help of God

*Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.*

L: People of St. Paul do you promise to support and pray for the new members in their lives in Christ?

**A: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

### Welcome

L: Let us welcome our new members in Christ to this community of faith.

**A: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end "God of Grace" and the congregation will respond "hear our prayer"

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, "Peace be with you."*

## OFFERING “Special Music”

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

## Offering Prayer

L: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**A: Amen.**