

St. John's Lutheran Church  
April 21, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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## **Welcome & Announcements**

*(An usher rings the church bells 5 minutes before church service starts)*

**Prelude** – “Joyance” by Ron Mallory - JuBellation

*(Acolyte -When music starts light candles)*

## **Gathering Hymn “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!” ELW#369 v.1-3**

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled,  
Alleluia! when contending death and life, Alleluia! met in strange and  
awesome strife. Alleluia!

## **Apostolic Greeting**

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

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. 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 "Shepherd Me, O God" ELW#780 v.1-5**

*Refrain*

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

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

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*

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*

4 You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*

5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

**Reading: 1 John 3:16-24** (*Please Sit*)

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Time –**  
Lord's Prayer Faith Milestone  
"Peace Like a River"  
Brown Bag Kids for Kids

**Gospel Acclamation "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW#172 (Please stand)**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

**Gospel:** John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** "Objects in the Mirror are closer than they appear" Pastor Christine Emerson (Please Sit)

**Hymn of the Day “Have No Fear, Little Flock” ELW#764 v.1-4**

- 1 Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock, for the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above, for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God, for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism** (*Please sit*)

**Nash Michael David**, *son of Nicholas and Brittany David*

Sponsors: Benjamin & Jenna Boeckmann and Justin & Mandy Torud

**Pastor:** God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

**Pastor:** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**All: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**All: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**All: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God that Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*(The child, parents and sponsors may come and gather around the font.)*

**Sponsors:** We present Nash Michael for the sacrament of holy baptism.

**Pastor:** Parents, you bring Nash Michael to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to fulfill these promises?

**Parents:** We do.

**Pastor:** Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Nash Michael in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors:** We do.

**Pastor:** People of God, do you promise to support Nash Michael and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**People:** We do.

**Pastor:** We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah

and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that he who is washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Nash Michael, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

**Pastor:** Let us pray...We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Nash Michael with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Nash Michael, child of God you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Amen.**

*(The candle is to remind us that we carry the light of Christ throughout our baptized life.)*

**Pastor:** Let us welcome Nash Michael into the community of faith.

**All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*(The child, parents and sponsors may return to their seats.)*

**Prayers of the People**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

**Petition:** God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*(Ushers collect offering. Begin at the back of the sanctuary on the inside aisle and collect as you move to the front and continue around to the outside aisle returning with the offering to the Gathering Area. One usher collects offering from balcony.)*

**Offering** – *The Lord Is My Shepherd* by Liam Lawton, arr. Paul Tate; featuring soloist Eric Nielsen

*(Acolyte will collect the offering from the ushers to place on the altar during Offertory)*

*(Observe a time of silence and reflection)*

### **Offertory “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” ELW#207**

*(Please stand)*

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

### **Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. 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. Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW#191**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
 might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### Invitation to Table *(Please Sit)*

*(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)*

**Lamb of God ELW#195**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### **Communion Hymn "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" ELW#484 v.1-5**

#### *Refrain*

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice; so when you call your fam'ly, Lord, we follow and rejoice. *Refrain*
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain*
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured? Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain*
- 4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell: whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain*
- 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be, to serve each other in your name in truth and charity. *Refrain*

#### **Post Communion Blessing** (*Please stand*)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. 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. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** “*God Be With you Till We Meet Again*” ELW#536 v. 1, 3  
(*Acolyte – Extinguish candles*)

1 God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

### *Refrain*

Till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again,) till we  
meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,) till we  
meet, (till we meet again.) God be with you till we meet again.

3 God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound  
you, put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

### *Refrain*

### **Sending**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** – Linda Ranney

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**Altar Flowers:** In celebration of Mary & Richard Spryer's 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary today!

**Serving at worship today:**

Pastor – Christine Emerson

Worship Assistant – Kathy Freitag

Nursery Attendant – Paige Burrows

Lector – Gracelyn Boeckmann

Acolytes – Ned Ernster, Xavier Olson

Ushers – Gary Kersten, Norb Kirk

Greeters – Julie Kersten, Ramona Sedlander

Communion Servers – Brandi Fuchs, Penny Erickson, Cheryl Mattison, Louise Alt

Camera System – Scott Olsen

Power Point- Lois Mai

Musicians- Linda Ranney, organ/piano; Mark Lundin, cantor; St. John's Choir