

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

Order of Worship for Sunday, April 21, 2024

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.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 23)

P: Come, walk in green pastures.

C: We follow the Shepherd.

P: Come, lie down in green pastures.

C: We trust the Shepherd.

P: Come, dine at the table of abundance.

C: We are fed by the Shepherd.

P: Come, dwell in God's house.

C: We live in the Shepherd's care.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

"The Trumpets Sound The Angels Sing" (ELW # 531)

Entrance Hymn 531

"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"

THE FEAST IS READY



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - ies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

SALUTATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of **Acts**; chapter 4, verses 5 through 12.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Refrain

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

Soloist:

- 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*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

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OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of First John, chapter 3, verses 16 through 24 .

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

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

²³And 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.

²⁴All 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: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

Jesus said:¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

"The King Of Love My Shepherd Is " # 456 – vs 1-4

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

EASTER UNISON PRAYER

P: Let Us Pray,

**C: O God of Easter joy,
we come this morning
with glad shouts of acclamation.**

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

**May this time of worship
help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ.
May we be transformed.**

**transformed into your butterfly people,
winging through the earth
with messages of beauty, hope and life.
Amen.**

PRAYER SONG

(WOV# 751)

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:

when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:

come and listen to me.

PRAYERS

P: 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.

A brief silence.

P: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems especially Jeff & Sue, Bonnie, Heather, Anita, Grete, Bettie, Kathy, Gene, Mike, Don, Joe, Julie N, Kim F. and all those we name in our hearts. . Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(WOV# 751)

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:

when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:

come and listen to me.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: God calls us to love one another as God loves us. In this we know the truth of Christ's peace. Share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with one another)

OFFERTORY

(WOV #761)

Now we offer you, our Father,
with the bread and with the wine
all our joys and all our sorrows,
all our struggles and our time.

In these gifts we see our oneness
throughout city and the field,
and we find a life of solace
where the scars of strife are healed. *Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Shepherding God, we praise and thank you because you gathered your flock around Abraham, and through Moses and Joshua you brought your sheep to a place of safety. In Jesus you came to us as a Passover Lamb to take away the sins of the world.

P: Sustaining God, as you lead your sheep to green pastures and guide them beside still waters, so you have led us to this table where in bread and wine you restore our soul.

P: Send down your Holy Spirit and restore your church through the abundance of this sacred meal. As we remember the story of your Son's life laid down for us, sanctify this bread and cup and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink of this, all of you: this cup is the new covenant in my blood,

which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

P: Saving God, your rod and staff comfort all who look to you in faith.
Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home.
When you find them in the valley of fear, gather them in your arms.
When they face evil in the presence of enemies,
follow them with your goodness and mercy all the days of their life.
On that day when the shadow of death covers them,
bring them to dwell in your house forever.
Shepherd us with all your saints of every age into your glorious presence,
where we shall behold your Lamb in seated glory,
most Holy Trinity, now and always. Amen.

P: Let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord
taught us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

**C: 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 (Psalm 23, John 10)

P: God prepares the table for us, offering us a feast of abundant love. Our cups overflow with the bounty of grace, for our Shepherd knows us as no one else can — restoring our souls, healing our brokenness, nourishing us with bread and cup for the life of ministry. Come to the table and feast with the Shepherd.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

“He Leadth Me” # 301

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Nourished by the Shepherd's abundant love,
go forth to walk in the paths of righteousness.
Love one another in truth and action.
May God's abundant blessings abide in you forever.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN -

"Rise, Shine You People" #393

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Julie Hansen

Communion Assistants: Julie Hansen & Vicki Thiery

Building Host, Acolyte & Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: Open

Altar Flowers:

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 4/28):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Kelly Imhoff

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson

Acolyte Offering Presenter & Building Host: Kelly Imhoff

Coffee Hour: Open

Altar Flowers: Open



Thread By Thread
Spring Change Over
TODAY,
Sunday April 21, 2024
Following worship

EMPTIES FOR CASH

"one persons junk is another persons treasure"

- ★Bring in your empty inkjet cartridges—black or color.
 - ★Do not put any tape on the cartridge.
 - ★Place your empty cartridge in a zip type plastic bag. (ex: zip lock)
- Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

NO Toners please.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are plenty of Sundays available to sign up for Altar flowers. They cost \$25 and the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Pastors office.



IT'S SPRING - Which means we need help with the church yard.

There is a sign up sheet for the weekly mowing on the bulletin board outside the hearth room.

If you can help with weeding—just come when you can choose a flower bed. No sign up necessary there's always weeds to pull.

Thank you!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. The coffee will be started by the building opener. Treats maybe store bought or homemade.

Sign up sheet is in the hearth room on the coffee table.



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558 or by email: bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com**

Cans FOR K-9's



We are still collecting aluminum cans to help support the Racine County K-9 program.

Remember the food pantry. Suggested items: Canned dinners, Peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene items, soup, and pastas.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, April 21, 2024 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour

Monday, April 22, 2024 -

Office CLosed

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 -

Office CLosed

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 -

Office CLosed

Thursday, April 25, 2024 -

Office CLosed

Friday, April 26, 2024 -

Office Closed

8:00 a,m, to 3:00 p.m.—RUSD

Sunday, April 28, 2024 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour