

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We gather this day to receive God's gifts and to praise His holy name. If you are visiting us today, we encourage you to fill out a yellow card in the pew rack to inform us of your visit and to introduce yourself to one of the pastors. Please stop by our Welcome Center in the narthex for more information about Bethany, and to receive a gift for you from our church family. Also, be sure to pick up our weekly *News & Notes*, located on the table in the back of the church.

Bethany is a singing parish and we hope that you will join us. A fine voice is not required – just a heart for worship. As you follow the order of service in this bulletin, please note:

- LSB refers to the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*
- Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.
- Front pew - hymnals are in a rack underneath your seat.

For your reference, worship participants are indicated as follows in the bulletin:

P: Presiding Minister (pastor's parts)

A: *Assisting Liturgist (pastor, choir or cantor)*

C: **Congregation (or all)**

AS WE GATHER

Quite often Christians will be accused of not living in the "real world." The inference is that our religion is escapist and out of touch. But the blood that flowed from Jesus hands, feet, head, and side was pretty real. The Jesus that rose from the dead is also pretty real. We have a real Jesus who died and rose from the dead for us real people. And since we are real people with a real Christ as the Head of the Church, we love our real brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Lord calls us Christians to love one another. This is natural as real sinners realize real forgiveness and realize that they are part of a big family of forgiven sinners. So we love them as Christ has loved us.

LITURGY SPOTLIGHT

Psalm 23 has been a favorite of Christians throughout history, and it is the appointed Psalm for today, Good Shepherd Sunday. God's people have sung psalms since Old Testament times in the temple. Paul encouraged the early Church to continue singing them (Col. 3; Eph 5), and history records psalm-singing as a tradition that has continued unbroken throughout the Church's history. Around the time of the Reformation, psalms were being paraphrased and put into the rhyme and rhythm of Western poetry. Martin Luther himself wrote several psalm paraphrases, the most familiar of which is the beloved "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," a paraphrase of Psalm 46.

Two hymns we sing today, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" and "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" are paraphrases of the 23rd Psalm. "The Lord's My Shepherd" stays very close to the original text. Many psalm paraphrases, however, go beyond the psalm texts and draw from other parts of scripture, particularly the Gospel, and "The King of Love" is one of these. This hymn clearly illustrates the idea that all scripture is about Christ and mentions "streams of living water," suggesting Holy Baptism; a chalice, hinting at the Lord's supper; and the cross, an obvious reference to Christ. Even though this psalm was written before Christ's life and ministry on earth, Christ declares himself to be the Good Shepherd in today's Gospel reading, and today's hymnody explicitly and properly places Christ in Psalm 23.

+We Stand in Our Baptismal Grace+

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(LSB #151)

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.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

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: 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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

(Please stand and turn to face the processional cross as it enters the church.)

ENTRANCE HYMN "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

LSB #710

CANTICLE "This is the Feast"

LSB #155

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. *(silence is kept)* 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.

C: **Amen.**

+We Sit to Meditate On God's Word+

THE FIRST READING

Acts 4:1-12 (ESV)

¹And as 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."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HYMN OF THE DAY "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

LSB #709

Stanza 1 *all*

Stanza 2 *low voices (men, lady tenors, older boys)*

Stanza 3 *choir*

Stanza 4 *choir*

Stanza 5 *high voices (sopranos, altos, children)*

Stanza 6 *all*

THE EPISTLE

I John 3:16-24 (ESV)

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.**

+We Face the Gospel Procession+

VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 10:14

REFRAIN

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

C: **refrain (alleluia!)**

C:

We know that Christ be - ing raised from the dead will

ne - ver die a - gain; death no long - er

has do - min - ion o - ver Him.

C: **refrain**

A: *I am the Good Shepherd, I know My own and My own know Me.*

C: **refrain**

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-18 (ESV)

¹¹I 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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe 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.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: Yes, 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.

P: Do you intend to remain strong in your faith and committed to Christ's Church and to suffer anything, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmands: I do so intend with God's help.

P: Do you hold all the books of the Bible, written by the prophets and apostles, to be the inspired Word of God and agree that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Bible and as you have learned to know them through Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true?

Confirmands: I do.

P: Do you intend faithfully to live your life according to God's Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the end of your life?

Confirmands: I do so intend by the grace of God.

Each confirmand approaches the altar in turn, accompanied by his or her parents and sponsors.

P: Give then your hands as pledge of your promise, and kneel to receive the blessing.

When all confirmands have been blessed, the people stand for prayer.

+Please Stand+

CONFIRMATION HYMN "O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near"

LSB #599

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

C: Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

EXHORTATION TO COMMUNICANTS

P: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge of His grace. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words, administer and receive the Testament.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+Please be seated+

THE COMMUNING OF THE CONFIRMANDS

While the confirmands commune, the congregation sings the hymn.

HYMN "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

LSB #594

Stanza 1 – *choir*

Stanza 2 – *all*

Stanza 3 – *choir*

Stanzas 4,5 - *all*

+Please Stand+

CLOSING PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*silence is kept*) O Lord our God, You have commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, and You have again brought us to Your house of prayer to praise Your goodness and receive Your gifts of life, salvation, and forgiveness of sins. Accept our humble thanks for all Your gracious blessings, and grant us those requests which will be wholesome for us. Bless those who have been confirmed in the faith this day and keep them Your children, brothers and sisters with us in Christ Jesus. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercies, Your holy Church throughout the world. Pour out upon them the riches of Your grace, so that we, redeemed in soul and body and

2009 Confirmation Class

steadfast in faith, may ever praise Your wonderful and holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again form the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through ✠ Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Proclaim

P. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB #922

POSTLUDE

“How Firm a Foundation”

Bethany Brass

Andrew Clarke

THOSE SERVING YOU TODAY

PREACHING:	11:15AM Pastor Stephen Schumacher
LITURGIST:	Pastor Timothy Rossow
ORGANIST:	Cantor Phillip Magness
ACOLYTES:	Danny Vertuno
CHOIR:	<i>Proclaim</i> ; Phillip Magness, director
BRASS:	Gretchen Brouch, Tyler Heuer, Erich Keller, Linda Komes, Chris Tatara
TIMPANI:	Cory Patterson
CLARINET:	Jessica Luhrs
GREETERS:	Dave & Debbie Buckman
WELCOME CENTER:	Donna Holecsek
USHERS:	Dennis Bartelt, Joel Burke, Chris Thilk, Chad Baganz
ALTAR GUILD:	Jennifer Kronemann
BUILDING OPENER:	Bill Kokaska

*Andrew David
Amoroso
Gavin Cole
Blaesner
Brandon
James Brock
Lauren Janell
Collins
Brent
Nicholas
Conklin
Jennifer Marie
DeVito
Aaron
Michael
Dierking
Laura
Elizabeth
Dierking
Abigail Marie
Fleischmann
Jaime Erin
Grimes
Brooke
Marlene
Gundersen
Haley Alexis
Hanneman
Amy Kathryn
Jablonsky*

*Michael
Robert
Johnson
Brandon
James Kolvitz
Kimberly
Anne
Lechowicz
Erik Andrew
Medhurst
Garrett Ross
Moreland
Sabrina Nell
Parr
Alexander
Lloyd
Piorkowski
Samantha
Wheeler Roth
Madeline
Nicole Weber
Adam Russell
Zimmerman
Joseph
Nicholas
Zuardo
Jessica Joy
Zuidema*