Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Washington, IL

**Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday**

**April 25, 2021**

**Online Bulletin**

Prelude

Easter Proclamation:

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Welcome

\*Hymn: “The Lord’s My Shepherd” Red Book #778

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**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

During the season of Easter we give thanks for our baptism which unites us with our risen Lord Jesus. We find forgiveness and new life in him.

*You may mark the sign of the cross on your forehead, the sign marked at baptism.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *Water may be poured into the font*

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new,

leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us

in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth,

like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

Peace:

P As forgiven people, we have peace with God, and peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us share that peace with one another. Please take a moment to share God’s peace with those near to you, and say a prayer of peace for those at a distance.

P The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

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Hymn of Praise: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Red Book 836

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P The Lord be with you

**C And also with you.**

Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day

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.

Children’s Message

**Reading: 1 John 3:16-24**

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.

R The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 23 Sing in Unison**

1The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

2He makes me lie down | in green pastures

and leads me be- | side still waters.

3He re- | vives my soul

and guides me along right pathways | for his name’s sake.

4Though 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.

5You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

6Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

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

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon by Mark Stutrud, the President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

*How you can support the mission of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) and the people we care for:*

*• Give generously to LSSI, so we can continue to serve people in need. For*

*information, call 847/635-4617.*

*• Become part of the Inspired, LSSI’s monthly giving program. For*

*information, call 847/635-4617.*

*• Leave a legacy by helping others far into the future – make a gift to*

*The Cornerstone Foundation. For information, contact David P. Novak at*

*847/635-4671.*

*• Schedule a presentation about LSSI and its programs in your congregation by calling 847/635-4617.*

*• Pray daily for the people served by LSSI and for the LSSI staff.*

* *Subscribe to* ***Inspired****, our bi-monthly newsletter. Send an email to* [*Communications@LSSI.org*](mailto:Communications@LSSI.org)*.*
* *Be a part of our* ***Facebook*** *community by liking our FB page. It’s a great way to stay up-to-date with LSSI’s news and events.*

Hymn: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Red Book #502

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Apostles’ Creed

**C: 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.**

Offering: The Lord is our Shepherd! Let us follow him with our lives and share our joy as we lift up our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Please take a moment now to make an electronic offering to the church on the website, with the Tithe.ly app or write a check and send it in.

We also take up a special offering for LSSI to support our shared ministry at this time. We will see a short video in support of that ministry.

Prayers: After each portion of the prayers finishes with “Lord in your mercy,” please respond, **“Hear our prayer.”**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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**

Announcements

Blessing

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit

bless you and raise you to newness of life, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Hymn: “Thine is the Glory” Red Book # 376

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Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

C **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude