

Peace Lutheran Church + ELCA + Menomonie, WI

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. + Sunday, April 30, 2023 + Worship with Holy Communion

GATHERING

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spread a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender car to all creation.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

GATHERING HYMN "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!"

ELW #369

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 2:36-41

A reading from Acts.

⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

"Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁶Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this,

they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles,

"Brothers, what should we do?"

³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23

(Read Responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

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

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

⁴**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.**

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

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

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from 1 Peter.

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL

John 10:1-18

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

Jesus said: ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

SERMON "Green Grass and Fresh Water"

Pastor Janelle Harrison

HYMN OF THE DAY "The Lord's My Shepherd"

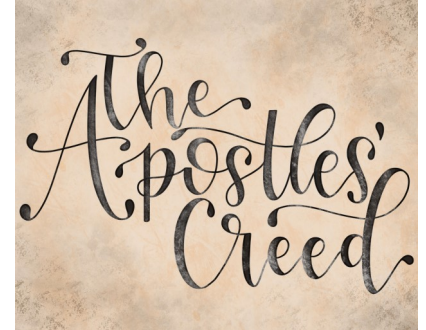
ELW #778

APOSTLES CREED

**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.**



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

.....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection,
we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God;
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

**Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.**



Matthew 6:12

INVITATION

Come to Jesus, our host and our meal

DISTRIBUTION

Visitors and guests, all who believe in the Lord Jesus are invited to come forward and join this family in receive the gift of life.

If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or juice, please tell your server.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW # 674

SENDING

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will, and may he, through Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd, do in us what pleases him. And to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be the glory for ever and ever. Amen

SENDING HYMN

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord"

ELW #541

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen.

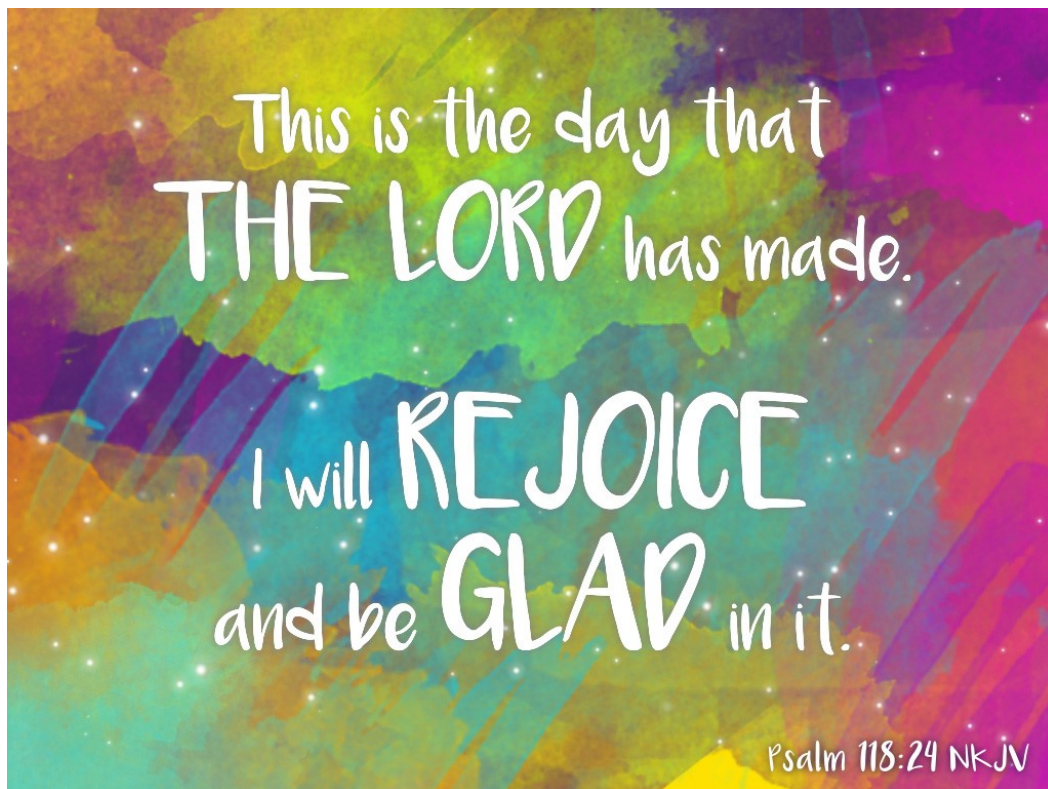
Christ is risen in deed!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE





Welcome To Peace Lutheran

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Thank You's

- ⇒ Pastor Janelle Harrison for leading our worship today and for walking this journey with us!
- ⇒ Our organist, Kittrick Singerhouse
- ⇒ Volunteers today:
 - Reader: Gus Myran
 - Ushers: Kathy Forster & Gus Myran



Prayer Requests:

If you have a prayer request for someone, please let Kate know and we will put it on the Prayers of the Church.

May Newsletters are available in the Narthex.
The next Newsletter will be June/July combined.

Coming Up:

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| Tues., May 2 | 9:30 a.m. PLCW Board |
| Wed. May 3 | 6-7 p.m. Confirmation
7 p.m. Adult Choir |
| Thurs. May 4 | 9 a.m. Quilters |

Mark your Calendars:

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| Sunday, May 7 | 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of Pastor Mac. Refreshments and fellowship following the service. |
| Saturday, May 13 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PLCW Spring Fling |
| Sunday, May 14 | Mother's Day
9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Affirmation of Baptism
Baptism of Adalynn Rae Hoover |
| Sunday, May 21 | 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
High School Senior Recognition |

