## Fourth Sunday of Easter

## ~ April 21, 2024~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“Now the Green Blade Rises”***  WOV #698

Vs. 1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death  
 that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.  
 And if we have been united In a dreadful death like his,   
 we will all be reunited, for he lives.

Vs. 2 In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,   
 in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,  
 God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;  
 in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

Vs. 3 Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
 glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;  
 as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again  
 in a song that has no ending. Amen

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57 ELW pg. 138

P: 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.***

**Kyrie** LBW pg. 57ELW pg. 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** LBW Pg 58 ELW pg. 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**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.

**First Reading: Acts 4:5-12**

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today’s reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus’s name to the religious authorities.*

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."

**Psalm 23**

1The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**2The 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.

**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. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

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

**6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

**SECOND READING**: **1 John 3:16-24**

*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.

**Gospel Acclamation**  LBW Page 62 ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**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."

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“The Lord’s My Shepherd”*** LBW #451 ELW #778

Vs. 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
 in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.  
 He leadeth me, he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

Vs. 2 My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make  
 within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
 within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Vs. 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

Vs. 4 My table thou hast richly spread in presence of my foes;  
 my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.  
 My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Vs. 5 Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,  
 and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be;  
 and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65ELW pg. 105

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 People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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.

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.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing victims of domestic abuse, and all those who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems especially

Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #410ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 144

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 our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”*** WOV #784

Vs. 1 You have come down to the lakeshore seeking

neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only

asking for me to follow.

***Refrain: Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;***

***kindly smiling, you've called out my name.***

***On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;***

***now with you, I will seek other seas.***

Vs. 2 You know full well what I have, Lord; neither

treasure nor weapons for conquest, just these my

fishnets and will for working. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 You need my hands, my exhaustion, working

love for the rest of the weary, a love that's

willing to go on loving.

Vs. 4 You who have fished other waters; you, the

longing of souls that are yearning; O loving

Friend, you have come to call me. ***Refrain***

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**