



April 21, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

As We Gather: Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring risen Shepherd!

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 710 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection.)

All: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **Amen.**

Kyrie – Lord, Have Mercy (*Words and music in hymnal page 186*)

All: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis - Glory to God in the Highest (*Words and music in hymnal page 187*)

All: Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace good-will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the Good Shepherd. You lay down Your life for the sheep; they are Yours. Empower Your church to reach every sheep that belongs to You and to give witness until You have brought all Your sheep into one fold; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

New Testament Reading – Acts 4:1-12 (*Peter and John are arrested and appear before the Council.*)

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. ⁵ The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone" ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading – 1 John 3:16-24 (*John reminds us that as children of God we are to show love to others both in our words and our actions.*)

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or

sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading – John 10:11-18 (*Jesus is our Good Shepherd who willingly lays down His life for us.*)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn: LSB 711 “Savior like a Shepherd lead Us”

Sermon: Acts 4:1-12 “Easter Blessings”

Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one

Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Hymn: LSB 900 “Jesus Name of Wondrous Love” vs. 1, 3, & 5

Offerings

Communion Confession (*1 Corinthians 10:17, Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32*)

Pastor: The Lord’s Supper is God’s gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ’s body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord’s Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

All: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God’s forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (*Augsburg Confession-Article X*)

Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father. Holy are You, and great is the majesty of Your glory. You so loved the world that You sent Your only Son to be our Redeemer and our King. By His sacrificial life, He has brought us salvation and has shown us the path to life eternal. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy Holy (*Words and music in hymnal page 195*)

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

Words of Institution

The Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God (*Words and music in hymnal page 198*)

All: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymns: LSB 524 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"
LSB 549 "All Hail the Power of Jesus" Name"

Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon (*Words and music in hymnal on page 199*)

All: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
People: And His mercy endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray.
O Jesus, our caring Shepherd, we give You thanks for having fed us through this Sacrament. Strengthen us, we pray, that we may live in obedience to You and honor Your name in our thoughts, words, and actions; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. [*Numbers 6:24-26*]
People: (*Sing*) Amen, Amen, Amen.

Hymn: LSB 740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO
Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597
pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: **Glenda Enlow**
First Lutheran, Neosho - Rev. Steve Gilmore

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanks:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Michael Lampe – (son of Pastor & Darlene Lampe – health and healing)

Janet Fisher – (daughter of Bill & Joanne Michel – health and healing)

Complete Prayer List:

LC Stalcup – (Bauer Family member – health & healing from surgery next week)

Mrs. Chris Atkins - (friend of Pam Bowling - health and healing from cancer)

Jim Troyke – (health and healing from heart issues)

Sandra Whalen – (health and healing from back surgery)

Steve Hilton – (friend of Harold & Gwen Lampe – health and healing from cancer)

Ron Hicks – (friend of Glenda Enlow - health and healing)

June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health and healing)

Marty Jones – (Bobby Jones' mother - health and healing)

Debbie Porter – (friend of Harold & Gwen Lampe – recovery from frostbite)

Ernest Ramm – (Cheryl Lile's uncle – health and healing from stroke)

Norma Kaiser – (friend of Gwen & Harold Lampe – health and healing from a stroke)

Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health and healing from cancer)

Alice Troyke – (health and healing from a fall)

Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing)

Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken hip)

Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Linda Kennell – (Pastor Kennell's mother – health and healing)

Bob & Bev Hess – (health and healing from a fall)

Kathy Brown – (friend of Kathy Holle - health and healing)

Larry Moennig – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)

Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's Sister-In-Law – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health and healing from cancer)

Thomas Williams – (Ruth Stoddard's friend – health and healing)

Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing)

Kooper Tutten – (Jeeper Meyer's Great-grandson - health and healing)

Sheryl Holle – (Kathy Holle's cousin – health and healing from cancer)

Jeff Flatten – (great nephew of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)

Dorothea Dennis – (health and healing & peace and comfort)

Danata Hopkins – (continued health and healing)

Pete Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health and healing)

Ellie Armstrong – (friend of David Lampe – health and healing)

Margaret Seburn - (cousin of Joanne Michel - health and healing)

Randy Wallace – (brother-in-law of Micki Gettman – health and healing)

Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer - health and healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer - peace and comfort)
Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer - health and healing from cancer)
Bob & Barbara Steinberg - (health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health and healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	April 21st	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	April 22nd	Braille in Freistatt - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Tuesday	April 23rd	Concordia Seminary Call Day
Wednesday	April 24th	Pastor in Office Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Thursday	April 25th	Pastor in Office
Sunday	April 28th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service Voters’ Meeting after service

Birthdays: Diane Smith-April 26; Katie Juracek-April 27

Anniversaries: None

Portals of Prayer for April - June are now available. If you need a large print version, please see Pastor.

New Church Directory: Grace will be doing a new Church Directory. We would like to have pictures of new members and any current members wishing a new picture. Contact Charlie Chambers to get new photos.

April

GREETERS:

04/21: Bill & Diane Thompson
 04/28: Bill & Joanne Michel

USHERS:

04/21: Bill Michel
 04/28: David Lampe

Thank you Stan Crandall for the Cross and Empty Tomb which you made for the congregation. The items are displayed on the ramp as you go to the basement.

LWML will meet Monday, May 6, 2024, at 1:30 pm in Trinity Chapel. The program will be presented by Skylar (Thompson) Myers, MSW. Skylar (Walt and Cheryl Brown’s granddaughter) works at CASA (Court Appointed Supervised Advocate), as an advocate

supervisor. Please join us for a great opportunity to learn. The program will be followed by a business meeting.

Grace is Collecting Supplies for Trinity School in Freistatt through the month of April.

- (1) Zip Lock baggies - any size
- (2) Colored markers
- (3) Dry Erase board markers for white boards
- (4) Post-It notes – 4x6 or 3x5 size with lines

There is a collection box in the entry way of the church. If you have any questions, please see Linda Myers.

Spring Cleaning:

If you have any extra cloth material and wish to donate it for making quilts and blankets to be given away, please let Don Wolf know.

Aurora City Wide Garage Sale: Save the date – June 1 - on Grace's lot. Spaces are available to anyone who wants to sell. Grace is also having a booth and anyone wanting to contribute articles should see Pam Bowling. Items are being accepted now through May.

Trustees are looking for a volunteer to help with mowing. If you can help, please contact Don Wolf.

Coming in May:

- (1) **Graduation Recognition:** Please let Charlie Chambers know the details of your graduate. Grace will recognize Graduates in June.
- (2) **Grace will be collecting Bibles and religious study material until June 2nd.** If you have any materials, please bring them. We will take the collected materials to a distribution center in June for distribution overseas. If you have any questions, please see Charlie Chambers.