

Worship in the Home
Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B
April 25, 2021



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

******You are invited to join Adult Sunday School from 9AM to 9:25AM on Zoom*** (this is the last session till September)***

Prelude

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for the 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, now and forever.
Amen.

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

Opening Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

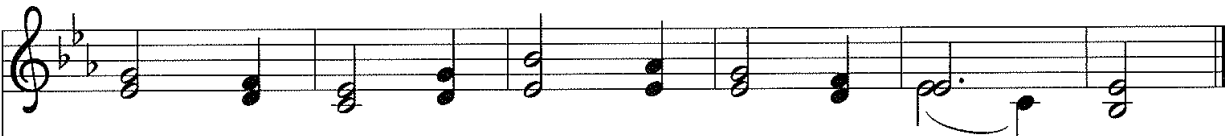
ELW # 502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
Music: Irish tune

ST. COLUMBA
8787

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **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

Psalm 23

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 John 3:16-24

Gospel: John 10:11-18

[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.”

Homily



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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Reflection

In the ancient Near East, kings and other leaders were often compared with shepherds. But many of them were quite awful, serving only themselves, misleading and betraying and even forsaking the people. They could destroy instead of working to build. We too sometimes have bad leaders. We may even be tempted to support them. Or we may ourselves be such leaders. But Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the Good Shepherd. He does his “shepherding” — his knowing and leading us — by laying down his life in love, by staying with us, sharing our need and death, and never running away. By the Spirit God gives us through the scriptures — as also through the water of baptism and the overflowing cup of the eucharist — we know him and his healing name. Even now, in a time of separation, the risen Christ is drawing us together into unity as one flock with the one true shepherd. Saved from ourselves and from bad leadership, we are formed to believe in the name of Jesus, to love each other, and to give ourselves to our neighbor’s needs.

Prayers of Intercession

On this fourth Sunday of Easter, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all in any need.

God of goodness and mercy, we pray for the church: that bishops, pastors, and deacons be upheld in their tasks as shepherds of your flock; and that congregations persevere in their ministries of nurture of the young and care for the aging. O God, steadfast shepherd of the church, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray for members of other world religions: that there be an end to inter-religious strife; that Sikhs be comforted in their sorrow; and that during Ramadan Muslims be strengthened for lives of prayer and service. O God, gracious keeper of many flocks, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray for the earth: that green pastures and clear waters be provided for herds and flocks, those raised for human use and those living wild; and that farm fields be saved from storm or drought. O God, mighty preserver of the universe, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray for the nations of the earth: that governments cease aggression against their neighbors; that peace come to Afghanistan, Syria, and Myanmar; and that China, Russia, and the United States coexist in concord with each other. O God, the true cornerstone of society, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray for justice in our land: that our criminal justice system continue to be reformed; that ethnic and economic prejudices cease their holds on our people; and that there be peace in our streets. O God, almighty judge of righteousness, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray for those who are hungry: the unemployed, the underemployed, those living in refugee camps or on our streets, the migrants seeking a better life; that they be fed. O God, benevolent table of food and fellowship, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray for all who are sick or suffering: for those stricken with the coronavirus, especially in India and Brazil; for the children who have known continual sorrow; and for those we name here before you. . . . O God, healer of our every ill, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We pray finally for ourselves: that you will receive the petitions of our hearts. O God, tender shepherd of each of us, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

We praise you for all the sheep of your fold, each lamb of your own flock. Especially today we thank you for the evangelist Mark and for his gospel book of faith. Bring us with all the saints to dwell in your house forever. O God, eternal giver of life, we pray: **Abide with us in love.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

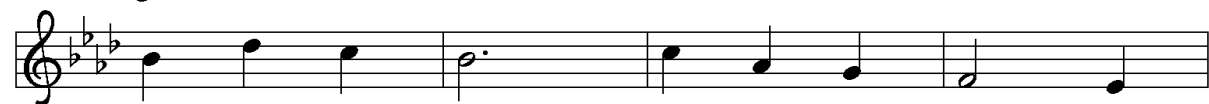
ELW # 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,

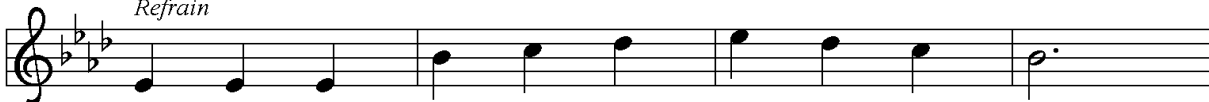


Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Benediction

May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Join us for fellowship on Zoom immediately following the Postlude:

596-621-1441

passcode 8675309

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for Patty Henderson and family upon the death of her mother, Doris Henderson, Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Staff Support Committee Meeting is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Worship & Music Meeting is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Schedule

Monday, Friday 9AM Hymn Devotion

Tuesday & Thursday 9AM Morning Prayer & 9PM Night Prayer

Wednesday 7PM Holden Evening Prayer

Meetings

Christian Ed. Meeting via Zoom on Monday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Pastor Traci: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lori: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Serving God and Us

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist/Organist – Dr. Adam Smith/Mary Nelson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Youth & Camping*”

Return to worship May 2, 2021 according to the following schedule:

First Sunday of the month:

9 AM worship in the sanctuary; 10:30 AM worship in the fellowship hall

Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays:

9 AM worship, weather permitting, using the yard, drive, sidewalk, or kitchen Patio

Fifth Sundays in May and August

10:30 AM worship at the Kreider Farm, followed by brown bag picnic in the pavilion

(In the event of rain, outdoor services will not be in-person, but will be live-streamed at 9 AM.)

Wednesdays

6:30 PM worship in the Sanctuary

THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: **dlehman1@atlanticbb.net**

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Donna Gearhart, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Janet Kreider, Harry Partner, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Cindy Barnes, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Anna Klepser, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Chuck McGeary, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Kevin Ormsby, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Sheena, Rhyvan, Zachary & Makaila Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Specialist Training in the Army: Nathan Smith

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 95. **Tuesday** Revelation 7:13-17. **Wednesday** Mark 14:26-31. **Thursday** (commemoration of Catherine of Siena, theologian, 1380) Psalm 22:25-31. **Friday** Amos 8:11-13. **Saturday** (Philip and James, Apostles) John 14:8-14. **Fifth Sunday of Easter** (commemoration of Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373) Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8. Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw. Portions from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *All Creation Sings*, and sundaysandseasons.com © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Readings from *Readings for the Assembly* © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.