



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus Sacrifices For The Flock



WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
LCMC

***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***

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Announcement

Congregational Meeting - Today

Immediately following today's service to discuss to discuss the Sacristy foundation repair expenditure.

INTRODUCTION

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in
love.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

Hymn # 377

**¹ Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in
glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven
forever! Oh, what a miracle
God has in sight!**

Hymn # 377

[Refrain]

**Jesus is risen and we shall
arise: Give God the glory!
Alleluia.**

Hymn # 377

**2 Walking the way, Christ in the
center telling the story to open
our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us
glory: Jesus our blessing, our
constant surprise.**

Hymn # 377

[Refrain]

**Jesus is risen and we shall
arise: Give God the glory!
Alleluia.**

Hymn # 377

**3 Jesus the vine, we are the
branches; life in the Spirit the fruit
of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the
people, gift of the future now
flowing to me**

Hymn # 377

[Refrain]

**Jesus is risen and we shall
arise: Give God the glory!
Alleluia.**

Hymn # 377

**4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be
silent: death put asunder, and
Easter is bright.**

**Cherubim sing: O grave, be
open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn
us in light**

Hymn # 377

[Refrain]

**Jesus is risen and we shall
arise: Give God the glory!
Alleluia.**

Hymn # 377

**Final City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the
Lamb,
river of life, saints and
archangels, sing with creation to
God the I AM!**

Hymn # 377

[Refrain]

**Jesus is risen and we shall
arise: Give God the glory!
Alleluia.**

Hymn # 377

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*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*

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God*

*Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:*

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

*This is the feast of victory
for our God Alleluia, alleluia*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

WORD

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' 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

*¹ The 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.***

*³ You 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.

5 You 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

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

***Alleluia. Lord, to
who shall we go?
You have the words
of eternal Life.
Alleluia.***

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 10:11-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.“

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn Of The Day

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Hymn # 502

**¹ The King of love my shepherd
is,
whose goodness faileth never,
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.**

Hymn # 502

**2 Where streams of living water
flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures
grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**

Hymn # 502

**3 Perverse and foolish oft I
strayed,**

**but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

Hymn # 502

**4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.**

Hymn # 502

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

Hymn # 502

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

Hymn # 502

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
the virgin Mary and became truly
human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

A brief silence.

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 our farm and ranch lands. 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 who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable and who are ill (especially). 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.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Nijhar in South Asia serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Giddings, TX and Christ's Victory Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for knitting your church together as one body in Christ. We thank you for being a part of our family of churches, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. We ask that you bless and protect the work of our association staff ministers: Mike Bradley, Christian Huntley, and Julie Smith. We also celebrate and lift before you the ministry of St. John in Dime Box, Texas and their pastor, Terry Bage. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake. We also pray for Pastor Ralph Martin during his battle with cancer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel). 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

Please pass the peace to those near you.

Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be 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***

It is indeed right, our duty and our
joy...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

THE 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.**

COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line
and at the altar rail.*

Lamb of God

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
+ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

Hymn # 536

**1 God be with you till we meet
again;**

**by good counsels guide, uphold
you, with a shepherd's care
enfold you;**

**God be with you till we meet
again**

Hymn # 536

[Refrain]

Till we meet, till we meet
till we meet at Jesus' feet
till we meet, till we meet
God be with you till we meet
again.

Hymn # 536

**2 God be with you till we meet
again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet
again**

Hymn # 536

[Refrain]

Till we meet, till we meet
till we meet at Jesus' feet
till we meet, till we meet
God be with you till we meet
again.

Hymn # 536

**3 God be with you till we meet
again;
when life's perils thick confound
you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet
again.**

Hymn # 536

[Refrain]

Till we meet, till we meet
till we meet at Jesus' feet
till we meet, till we meet
God be with you till we meet
again.

Hymn # 536

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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