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April 21, 2024

**Easter four**

ELW Service of the Word

April 21, 2024

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.***

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

***Gathering Song At the Lamb’s High Feast we Sing  ELW 362***

**Greeting** pg. 213

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

**Kyrie** pg. 213

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**Canticle of Praise** *(Listen! You Nations)*

***Refrain***

 **Listen! you nations of the world:**

 **listen to the Word of the Lord.**

 **Announce it from coast to coast;**

 **declare it to distant islands.**

1 The Lord who scattered Israel

 will gather his people again;

 and he will keep watch over them

 as a shepherd watches his flock. ***Refrain***

2 With shouts of joy they will come,

 their faces radiantly happy,

 for the Lord is so gen’rous to them;

 he showers his people with gifts. ***Refrain***

3 Young women will dance for joy,

 and men young and old will make merry.

 Like a garden refreshed by the rain,

 they will never be in want again.

 Break into shouts of great joy:

 Jacob is free again!

 Teach nations to sing the song:

 “The Lord has saved his people!”

**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.***

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Acts 4:5-12

Psalm Psalm 23

Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24

**Gospel Acclamation** pg. 216

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

Gospel reading John 10:11-18

Children’s Chat

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day The Lord’s My Shepherd  ELW 778***

**Nicene Creed** pg. 104

**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.**

**The 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.

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 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 who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, be with those who are in any need. We especially pray for all those whom you have entrusted to our care. 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. 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.**

**Sharing of the Peace** pg. 218

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give it, as the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled and neither let them be afraid.’ The peace of the Lord take hold of you, and those you love always.

**THANKSGIVING**

God hears the prayers of all to call out from the heart.

**Offertory Prayer**

**O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

**Canticle of Thanksgiving** pg. 219

***Salvation belongs to our God, and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.***

***Great and wonderful are your deeds,***

***O God of the universe;***

***just and true are your ways,***

***O Ruler of all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you,***

***Lord, and sing the glory of your name?***

***Salvation belongs to our God, and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.***

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

***and blessed is the one***

***whose name is the Word of God.***

***All praise and thanks to you, holy God!***

***Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.***

**Thanksgiving or the Word** pg. 220

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(Lord’s Prayer is sung)* pg. 221

**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.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passes all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God’s Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Sending Song The King of Love My Shepherd Is  ELW 502***

**Dismissal**

Alleluia Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, go in peace, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**The First Reading is from the book of Acts beginning at the 4th chapter and the 5th verse.** *(Acts 4:5-12)*

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.”

**Listen for the leading of the Spirit. Thanks be to God**

**Our Psalm is Psalm 23. We will say the Psalm responsively by whole verse.** *(Reader, please read all of the verses so that the people on line can hear the responses as well.)*

 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.**

 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 Second Reading is from first John beginning at the 3rd chapter and the 16th verse.** *(1John 3:16-24)*

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.

**Listen for the leading of the Spirit. Thanks be to God**

**The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter** *(John 10:11-18)*

**Glory to You O Lord!**

[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.”

**Praise to You O Christ!**