

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4



Prelude Music

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

P: We thank you, risen Christ, for these 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.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (*Please see back page for music – verses 1, 2, 7 and 8*)

Greeting

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

A/P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A/P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A/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.**

A/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.

A/P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: 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: 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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: 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.

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.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

P: A reading from... C: **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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Song of the Day: Shepherd Me, O God (*please see back page for music*)

Apostles Creed

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 Church / Sign of the Peace

Words of Institution

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

Communion Song: Taste and See

Let Us Break Bread Together – ELW #471

Final Blessing

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Sending Song: Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Hear the call of the kingdom, lift your eyes to the King;
Let His song rise within you as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy, came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom, to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven the humility of Christ;
Walking justly before Him, loving all that is right,
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to
proclaim salvation in Jesus' name.

Hear the call of the kingdom, to reach out to the lost
with the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness, and a hope yet to come:
let the nations put their trust in Him.

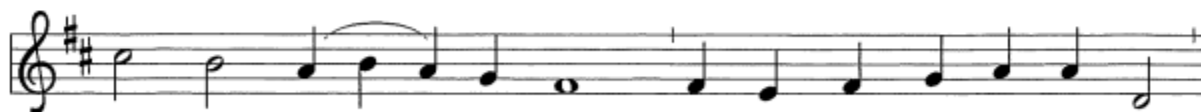
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At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

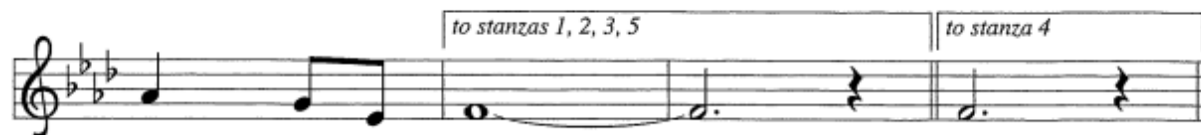
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Mighty victim from the sky,
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
 you have conquered in the fight,
 you have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!</p> <p>6 Now no more can death appall,
 now no more the grave enthrall;
 you have opened paradise,
 and your saints in you shall rise.
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>7 Easter triumph, Easter joy,
 this alone can sin destroy!
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 newborn souls in you to be.
 Alleluia!</p> <p>8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, your name we praise.
 Alleluia!</p> |
|---|---|

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
 lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
 spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
 rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Refrain

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Refrain

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April 25, 2021

Altar Flowers have returned! Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. You may use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the Administration Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *by the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.*

"Zoom Bible Study" gathering via Zoom is on a break right now. Our next study will start on April 21st and will be on Paul's letter to the Philippians from Augsburg Fortress. Besides the thought-provoking discussions, we also have great conversation and fellowship. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

The BLC book club continues to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm via ZOOM. On Apr 27 we will discuss the book "My Name is Lucy Barton" by Elizabeth Strout. If you would like to participate and are not already on the email list, just send your email address to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Summer is just around the corner and here at Bethlehem we're planning a new exciting VBS

Adventure not only for your kids... but for the entire family! Are you looking for a safe, friendly and fun environment that you can all enjoy together? Then sign up today for Great Bible Reef One Day VBS! This outdoor fun-filled vacation bible school is for the young and the young at heart for one day only on Sunday, June 27th 2PM - 5:45PM.

Registration is going on now until the June 13th deadline! For more information or to register for VBS, go to myvbs.org/blcvbs2021 or reach out to Annie Slabaugh at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880 extension 16!

The APRIL issue of the STAR is ready! This is an early publication so we can include Holy Week and Easter information. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser" at BLC is now full** with several paper publications, including the April STAR and the current week's worship folder/bulletin. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Drive My Way, the driver's ed school using Bethlehem's facility is in need of experienced driver's ed teachers. If you are experienced or know someone who is experienced, please contact Mark or Ashley Ingraham, the Father/Daughter Team; Drive My Way Driver Education; (231)492-6612. Time and pay are negotiable.

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for available for April/May/June. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

A big thank you to those who have turned in Oleson's receipts. For 2020, we received a total of \$545.66. Please continue saving your Oleson's receipts for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

Calling all Knitters!! There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some to make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!