

# EASTER



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**Rev. Debra North, Pastor**  
**Ms. Molly Finkbiner, Director of Music**  
**Ms. Maritza Oquendo, Parish Secretary**

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sunday, April 25, 2021

## **PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

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

**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. Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN: *(spoken)* "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" - ELW 789**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Savior, like a shepherd lead us;<br>much we need your tender care.<br>In your pleasant pastures feed us,<br>for our use your fold prepare.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>you have bought us; we are yours.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>you have bought us; we are yours. | 3 | You have promised to receive us,<br>poor and sinful though we be;<br>you have mercy to relieve us,<br>grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>early let us turn to you.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>early let us turn to you.       |
| 2 | We are yours; in love befriend us,<br>be the guardian of our way;<br>keep your flock, from sin defend us,<br>seek us when we go astray.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>hear us children when we pray.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>hear us children when we pray.          | 4 | Early let us seek your favor,<br>early let us do your will;<br>blessed Lord and only Savior,<br>with your love our spirits fill.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>you have loved us, love us still.<br>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br>you have loved us, love us still. |

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

## THE INVOCATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

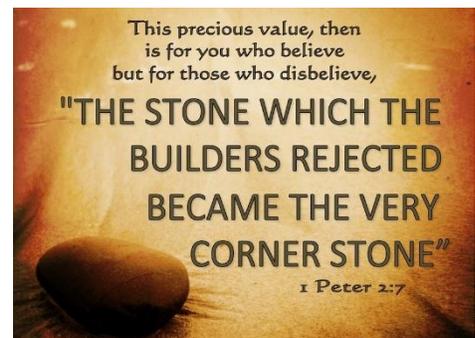
O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(You may be seated)*

## FIRST LESSON

The first lesson is found in **Acts 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let 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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."



Word of God word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23** (Read responsively.)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right  
pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**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 LESSON**

The second lesson is found in **1 John 3:16-24.**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How 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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And 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.

<sup>24</sup>All 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.

Word of God word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Please stand as you are able.)

**Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.** (John 10:14)

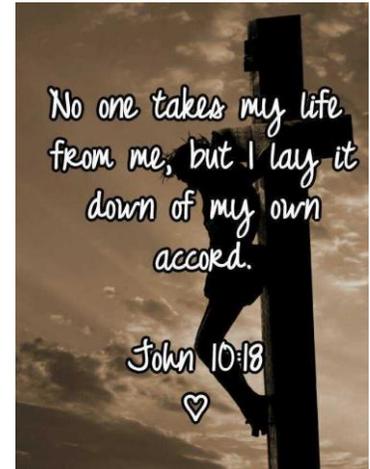
**GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to **John 10:11-18**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I 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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No 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.**



**MESSAGE** (You may be seated.)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (spoken) – **"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"** - LBW 290  
(Please stand as you are able.)

- 1     There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
      like the wideness of the sea;  
      there's a kindness in his justice  
      which is more than liberty.  
      There is no place where earth's sorrows  
      are more felt than up in heav'n.  
      There is no place where earth's failings  
      have such kindly judgment giv'n.
  
- 2     There is welcome for the sinner,  
      and a promised grace made good;  
      there is mercy with the Savior;  
      there is healing in his blood.  
      There is grace enough for thousands  
      of new worlds as great as this;  
      there is room for fresh creations  
      in that upper home of bliss.

- 3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the head.
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all sunshine  
in the sweetness of our Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

### **THE NICENE CREED** (Epiphany, Baptism of our Lord, Transfiguration)

**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**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (*especially*). Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities (*specific concerns may be named*), fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

### **PRAYER LIST**

*Eliza, Judy H., Mya, Anneliese, Gertrude, Tim, Pr. Debby, Eddie, Cheryl, Carol, Bruce, Denis, Megan, Gertrude, George, Mike, Jennifer, Sue, Tina, Alex, Donna, Ginger, Karen, Janet, Rachel, Jenn, Ginger, R.C., Richard, Forrest, Roy, Jeanine, Leslie, Cory, Shirley, Deb, Kathy, Tom, Glen, Margery, Lillian K., Bruce and Members of the armed services, the congregation of St Paul of Smithville Twp.*

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (*especially the evangelist Mark*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(Please share Christ peace in social and acceptable ways.)*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. The gifts are brought forward.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

*(Please remain standing as you are able.)*

Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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.**

## BLESSING

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.**

## SENDING HYMN: *(spoken)* "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" - LBW 196

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,<br>worship, thanks, devotion voicing:<br>glory be to God on high!<br>Christ, your cross and passion sharing,<br>by this eucharist declaring<br>yours the final victory.            | 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,<br>we go forth alert and living<br>in your Spirit, strong and free.<br>Partners in your new creation,<br>seeking peace in ev'ry nation,<br>may we faithful foll'wers be. |
| 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,<br>lost and lonely, one voice hearing,<br>ears attentive to your word;<br>by your blood new life receiving,<br>in your body, firm believing,<br>we are yours, and you the Lord. | Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983,<br>alt. Text © Oxford University Press.  |

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please take this booklet and joy scripture reading and puzzle on page 11 and 12)*



He is  
**RISEN**

## Acknowledged Credits

### PRELUDES:

Selections from “Symphony No. 6 ‘Pastorale,’ *Allegro ma non troppo*, Ludwig van Beethoven, transcribed for piano solo by Franz List.

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### GATHERING:

**“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us (Bradbury),”** ELW 789 Dorothy Ann Thrupp, William Batchelder Bradbury. Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

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### HYMN OF THE DAY (*spoken*) – **“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” - LBW 290**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

Frederick William Faber.

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### OFFERING: **Played instrumental by Molly Finkbiner.**

**“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling,”** William Lomartine Thompson.

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### SENDING HYMN: (*spoken*) **“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing” - LBW 196**

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.

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### POSTLUDE:

**Selection from Schafe Konnen Sicher Weiden (Sheep May Safely Graze), J.S. Bach, transcribed for piano solo by Mary Howe. © Public Domain.**

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## Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

*We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also  
make our blessings count. —Neal A. Maxwell*

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Everyone has a bad day once in a while.

What is frustrating is that often it is hard to understand why.

You can't think of anything that happened that would send you spiraling downward into depression. No one said anything bad to you. You didn't get a call from a creditor. You didn't get bad news. So what's going on?

You're human. Perhaps you're tired. You didn't get enough sleep. Who knows? You don't need an excuse to be grumpy. It happens.

Sometimes it is helpful to remember how blessed we are. When I am feeling out of sorts, I often remind myself to count my blessings, as the old hymn suggests. Here is a list of things for all of us to remember.

### Count from 1 to 10 the Blessings in Life

1. *I have a roof over my head.* Many people in the world don't.
2. *I ate today.* Tens of thousands miss meals every day.
3. *I have a good heart.* This comes from God.
4. *I wish good for others.* Many people are self-centered and think only about themselves.
5. *I have clean water to drink.* Not everyone is so fortunate.
6. *Someone cares for me.* I need to pray for those who feel alone.
7. *I forgive others.* I need to pray for those who are bitter and hold a grudge.
8. *I have clothes to wear.* I need to pray for all the good people in the world who are trying to cloth the needy.
9. *I am living to the best of my ability in a faithful relationship with God.*
10. *I'm breathing!* Every day that I wake up is a good day. It's an opportunity to do something good.

Here the list stops. But if you were to add to this list, what blessings would it include?

—Timothy  
Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, my blessings are too many to count. I am very thankful, and humbled by your love. Amen.*

## Daily Bible Readings

**Sunday:** Luke 10-13

**Monday:** Judges 13-15

**Tuesday:** Judges 16-18

**Wednesday:** Judges 19-21

**Thursday:** Ruth 1-4

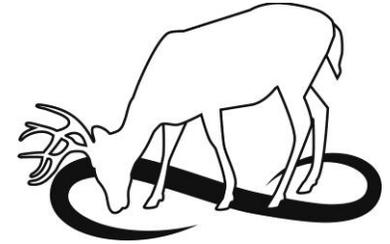
**Friday:** 1 Samuel 1-3

**Saturday:** Psalms 40-42

## Verse to Remember

*“As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.”*

—Psalm 42:1



## UNSCRAMBLE THE PROVERB!

**Directions:** Write in the missing word indicated by the ellipsis (...) in the blank provided. Unscramble the words you wrote in the blanks, to reveal another proverb.

When the going gets tough, the tough ... going. \_\_\_\_\_

People who live in glass houses should ... throw stones. \_\_\_\_\_

If the cap fits, ... it. \_\_\_\_\_

When you begin a journey of revenge, start by digging two graves:  
one for your enemy, and one for .... \_\_\_\_\_

One person pretends to be ..., yet has nothing; another pretends to  
be poor, yet has great wealth. \_\_\_\_\_

Good things come ... those who wait. \_\_\_\_\_

When in Rome, ... as the Romans do. \_\_\_\_\_

Do not wear ... your welcome. \_\_\_\_\_

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

\_\_\_\_\_

## MISSING LETTERS

The theme of this puzzle is “young animals.” Here are 14 young animal names without the consonants. Complete each word and cross off each consonant when you use it. (The adult version is in parentheses.)

B CCCCC DD FF GGGG H  
J KKK LLLLLL NNNN  
PPPP S TTTTTT WW  
YYYY

1. \_\_U\_\_ (BEAR)
2. \_\_O\_\_ \_\_I\_\_ \_\_ (GOOSE)
3. \_\_I\_\_ (GOAT)
4. \_\_A\_\_ \_\_ (DOE)
5. O\_\_ \_\_E\_\_ (OWL)
6. \_\_O E\_\_ (KANGAROO)
7. \_\_I\_\_ \_\_E\_\_ (CAT)
8. \_\_O\_\_ \_\_ (HORSE)
9. \_\_A\_\_ \_\_O\_\_E (FROG)
10. \_\_ \_\_I\_\_ \_\_ (HEN)
11. \_\_U\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ (DOG)
12. \_\_ \_\_ \_\_E\_\_ (SWAN)
13. E A \_\_E\_\_ (EAGLE)
14. \_\_I\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ (MARE)

**SOLUTION:** Do not wear yourself out to get rich (Proverbs 23:4, NRSV).

### SOLUTION TO MISSING LETTERS:

1. cub
2. gosling
3. kid
4. fawn
5. owl
6. joey
7. kitten
8. colt
9. tadpole
10. chick
11. puppy
12. cygnet
13. eaglet

