



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter
ELW Setting 1

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

Call and Response:

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He lays down his life for his sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He knows us, and we belong to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Entrance Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

#385

Kyrie

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This is the Feast

(Congregation sings the refrain, Liturgist sings the verses)

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. *refrain*

2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *refrain*
3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *refrain*

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

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)

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.
**⁶Surely 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:

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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 our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#789

Response to the Word: Creed and Confession

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 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. We pray for wisdom for our Mayor, Becky, for our governor, Laura, and for our president, Joe. 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 we especially pray for our members Rolland, Donna, Walli, Betty, Gloria and Gene. We pray for our friends Donna, Denise, Bill, Dawn, Dorothy, Stephani, Karla, Orin, Danielle, Krista, Betty, Meghan and Matt let us pray

that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. We pray for those serving in the military including: Alex, T.J., Ben, Vicki, Jeremy, Luke, Miranda and Daniel. We pray for seminarian Kaylie Ines. 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 we ask that you help us to be your Church. Gift us with the desire to create connections and relationships in your name; fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God our Teacher, we give you thanks for the years of life we devote to primary education. Through the gifts and talents of our educators, we grow youths to edge of independence.

Through the latter years of adolescence, you continue to empower the growth of adult understanding and ability. Bless our high school graduates, O God, that they might be filled with the knowledge which will compel them into the pathways of life where their gifts might meet the deep needs of the world. Hold Cayson, Elise, and Jake in your grace, abide them, protect them, and lift them up to walk paths as yet unforeseen. May these youths honor and glorify Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the use of all that you have given them and all that is yet to become through them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you all: **And also with you!**

MEAL

Offertory

Brother James' Air (Based on Psalm 23)

Wilbur Held

Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Congregation sings

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Eucharistic Prayer

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Lord's Prayer

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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.

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Closing Hymn

Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoicing!

#544

POSTLUDE

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Wilbur Held

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Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Jeanne Lucas Liturgist
Ingrid Pohl Lector

Worship Leaders next week:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Sharon Bruce Lector

3/31/2021

Actual

Actual

Budget

Jan –

Jan –

Mar-21

Mar 21

Mar 21

Revenue	26,414.61	50,636.06	36,289.97
Expenses	<u>11,083.23</u>	<u>37,767.40</u>	<u>40,121.19</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>15,331.38</u>	<u>12,868.66</u>	<u>(3,831.22)</u>
Reserve			
Balance	93,535.29		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, and Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
	Daughter	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's	Meghan	John & Margaret Presley's
	daughter	Presley	Daughter
		Matt Forrester	Pastor Amy's brother

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		
Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife		

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Luke Hammontree Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ione Toll	4/26	Cindy Daniels	4/27
Peri Ford	4/28		

Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers

This past year has been overshadowed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and its tragic results, including an economic crisis that has rendered millions of people unemployed, homeless, and food insecure. In particular, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) have been disproportionately affected.

A recent report from scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that Black communities are exposed significantly more to particulate matter 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less than the population at large. The particular matter results from polluting facilities lead to higher rates of arthritis, heart and lung disease.

Pollution is a word we used to hear a lot before the pandemic eclipsed it. But it continues to exist, even outside of the spotlight. Oil refineries, chemical manufacturing plants, and mining facilities located near indigenous reservations contaminate the air, ground and water with toxic chemicals, putting Native communities at a higher risk of developing cancer or heart and lung disease. BIPOC communities are the most vulnerable, also, when natural disasters occur.

People of faith have responded to this situation. In Warren County, North Carolina, a six-week civil disobedience campaign took place, with protestors placing their bodies on the line to prevent the dumping of a carcinogenic compound. This county has the largest population of Black people in the state, about 62%. The protest was to the environmental justice movement what the Montgomery bus boycott was to the civil rights movement. In another parish, Sharon Lavigne founded Rise St. James, a faith-based group waging a battle against Formosa Plastics Group. These are just two examples of BIPOC communities fighting back.

We have just observed Earth Day 2021. There's a lot each of us can do to make our planet a better place for all of us to live.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be collecting **Personal Care Kit items for Lutheran World Relief**. Anyone may donate to this worthwhile project, sponsored by Messiah Church Women. A tub will be available with lists of what is needed on the north Fellowship Hall table. We can also provide the items for you. Checks can be written to Messiah Church Women and dropped off in the office or sent to Chris Reinert. At present there is currently a great need for these kits, both in our country and abroad.

Now is the time to **begin cleaning out all those treasures** that you no longer have a use for or are just tired of looking at. Children's clothes are welcome; adult clothing not so much. You can bring items to the church anytime.

At Council this past week, we discussed the grants we have been writing on behalf of the congregation to assist our costs of our mission to serve the community through the use of our building. Having applied for a **Nutt grant** in the amount of ~\$19,000, we received news that we did *not* receive this funding. This amount would cover the cost of three HVAC units (2 in the fellowship hall and one in the Sprout House area) and three iWave ionizers which assist in abatement of airborne mold, bacteria, and viruses. Our HVAC systems are outdated and no longer can be serviced with freon. If you would like to assist in the purchase of these necessary items, your giving above and beyond your typical giving would be welcomed.

Reconciling in Christ is the name for the ELCA's ministries around intentional inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in congregations. As Messiah begins to envision what is "next" for us in ministry, this might be a path we could converse about and seek to embrace. If you are interested in this conversation, please contact Pastor Amy. You can check out resources here: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/>

KICK will be hosting a family series this summer. June 13th there will be a family tailgate from 5 to 7:30 pm at Swensson Park with Bible lessons and camp songs, hotdogs, burgers and more, and tailgate games. July 11th is pool night at Riverside Park from 5:30 to 9:30 pm with lessons and camp songs, Stuga subs and more. Private swim for the first 100. August 15th is a back to school bash with inflatables at Swensson Park from 5 to 7:30 pm. There will be Bible lessons, camp songs, pulled pork bbq and more. Tailgate games are needed, if you have a tailgate game we could borrow for the June 13th gathering please let Rachel Ann know (785) 212-0113.

Today we celebrate the educational accomplishments and upcoming **graduation** of Ellise Peterson, Jake Lucas, and Cayson Lindquist. These Smoky Valley seniors have been active members of our congregation and their community. We applaud their endurance and service as well as their contributions. There is a basket outside of the office where you may leave a card or note wishing them well. Cards and notes will be sorted and given to each graduate after May 15th. We hope you will pick up a cookie today as you leave our service in honor of these outstanding young people.

You can also send your congratulations to them:

Cayson Lindquist, 615 Sioux Rd, Marquette, KS 67464

Jake Lucas, 411 N Main, Lindsborg, KS 67456

Ellise Peterson, 114 N 3rd St, Lindsborg, KS 67456



Cayson Lindquist will attend Fort Scott Community College where he will help with the rodeo team. Cayson served Messiah Lutheran Church as an acolyte, in the No Sunday School Band and participated in youth group. Cayson has also been an active 4-H participant. We wish Cayson the very best as he moves to his new community to continue his education.



Jake Lucas served Messiah Lutheran Church as an acolyte, in the No Sunday School Band and participated in youth group. Jake was involved in sports, music and other organizations during high school. We wish Jake the very best as he moves to his new community to continue his education.



Ellise Peterson served Messiah Lutheran Church as an acolyte, in the No Sunday School band, participating in youth group. She works at Bethany Home and the Good Merchant. In high school Ellise participates in track, KAYS, cross country, cheerleading, drama and band. During her free time, Ellise spends time with friends, crafting and to Braums and Sonic. Ellise will attend K-State in the fall majoring in Biology.

James 1:2-4 “² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” is Ellise’s favorite bible verse. We wish Ellise the very best as she continues her education in her new community.

APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



As Jesus shepherds us, we shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Genesis 49:22-28	Jacob blesses his sons
Thursday	Mark 6:30-44	Jesus the compassionate shepherd
Friday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God the true shepherd
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God, we thank you for pursuing us with your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, as a shepherd you provide us with daily food; give us the faith and love to care that others have daily food on their tables, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd pursue you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does a shepherd do?
- What does Jesus do to shepherd us?
- How can we shepherd fellow Christians in the faith and in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 3:16-24.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. John 10 and Psalm 23 give clear attention to this shepherd theme. However, so does 1 John 3. Just as Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11), so we as brothers and sisters who follow Jesus are to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16). We lay down our lives—we shepherd one another—by loving one another “in truth and action”—not just words (v. 18). We, as fellow shepherds, abide in the Good Shepherd by believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another with our whole being. As we give thanks for Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we also give thanks that we are surrounded by a community of faith that shepherds one another to believe in Jesus Christ and to lay down our lives for one another. Why is it important that Christians not only care for the needs of the world but also care for each other as followers of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, strengthen us in faith and love to shepherd one another to live with hope and good courage through Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE

Be a servant this week by shepherding someone. Make a visit and listen to the person. Read Psalm 23 together. Talk about what it means to have Jesus as our shepherd and close with the Lord's Prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. There will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16) If there are children in your home, play “Follow the Leader.” Blindfold the followers and have the leader guide them by using only their voice. Think about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.