



**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 21, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

**Building Disciples - Growing in Faith  
Serving in Christ's Name**

**The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor**

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Welcome to all – especially visitors.

**It is no accident that you are here today!**

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

*Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.*

**Holy Communion:** All God’s Children are welcome to come to God’s Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ’s body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to walk up to the altar to receive communion, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

***The prefilled glasses are grape juice.***

*Please remember to write any prayer requests for today  
in the prayer book in the Narthex.*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME**

### **PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*The congregation stands as is comfortable and faces the baptismal font at the invitation of the presiding minister.*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Brothers and sisters, on this day when we celebrate the rising of Christ from death, let us gather at the water to celebrate our baptism, which is the sign and seal of our new life in Christ.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,

**C: you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.**

P: In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

**C: In the waters of baptism our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.**

P: Glory to you, O God, for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

**C: Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.**

P: Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Through these waters, wash away our sin  
and all that separates us from you.  
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW #362 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"  
(Stanzas 1, 2, 7, 8)**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was raised  
from the dead to bring everlasting hope, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    ⓐ Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

# HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



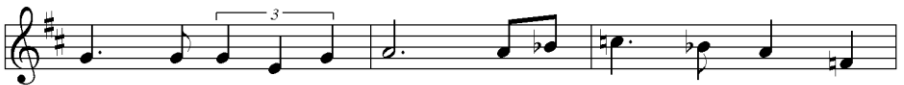
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
**II** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.  
**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING: 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."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 23** (*read in unison*)

**<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 READING: 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.

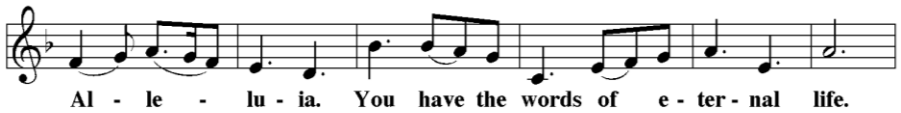
<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #789 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

### NICENE CREED

A: Together let us profess the faith of the Church.

**C: 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

*The assisting minister prays on behalf of the congregation.*

A: 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.*

A: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower us as we worship and serve



alongside local and global ministry companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Nurturing God, preserve the health of landscapes, habitats and ecosystems, especially those that are endangered by human encroachment or misuse. 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 mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, we give thanks for native peoples who first inhabited and protected the lands of their ancestors. Lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and bring an end to war and insurrection. Guide us as citizens to make good choices in elections, and help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without permanent housing, victims of domestic abuse, the unemployed and the under-employed, those imprisoned physically and those imprisoned by addiction, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. We pray especially for Cindy, Kody, Jay, Bill, Elizabeth, Dottie, Jerry, Doug, Jordan, Christian, Arla, Marge, Jerry, Terrie, Naoma, Boden, Andy D., and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (pause) Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things of this world that distract us from following you. As 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 to those who have yet to hear it. God of mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, for the sake of your crucified and risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

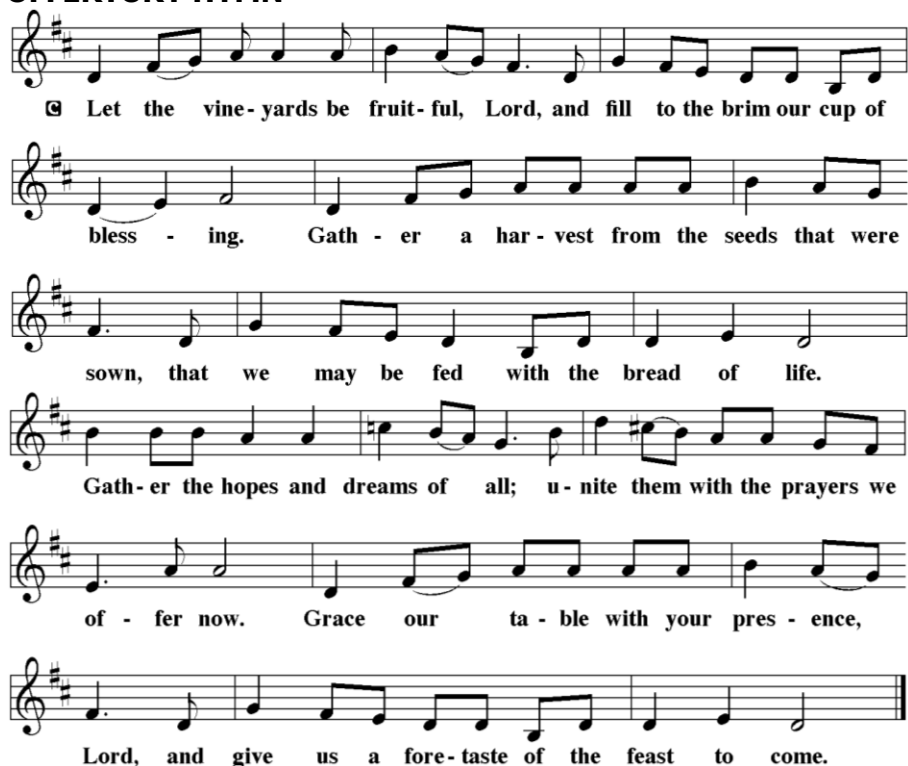
## **THE SHARING OF PEACE**

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*We share a sign of peace with our neighbors, then remain standing as you are comfortable.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN



☩ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious God, as we celebrate the power of the resurrection, receive these offerings and gifts that we give joyfully and generously. By the power of your Spirit, multiply them and use them to bring peace, justice, hope and the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God, holy Father, through Christ our Savior. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

♩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world.

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

(continued next page)

you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send, now your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood. Draw us together as the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your saints into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Jesus Christ, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics "A - men, a - men, a -" with a fermata over the final "a". The second staff continues with "men, a - men, a - men." with a double bar line at the end.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: We pray for ourselves and on behalf of others:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, grants everyone a place at the welcome table. Come to the feast.

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*As the table is prepared the congregation sings:*

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*Please come forward to receive communion at the direction of the ushers, organ side first, and return by the side aisles.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

### **ELW #484 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"**

*When all have communed, please stand as you are comfortable.*

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

**C: Amen.**

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

**C: Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, ✚ refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

**C: Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN ACS #1062 "Build a Longer Table"



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
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## DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Go in peace. Listen for your shepherd's voice.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



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