

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Divine Setting One pg 151

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

#467 vs 1-3

INVOCATION

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

KYRIE

“Lord, Have Mercy”

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Gloria in Excelsis”

COLLECT OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

Acts 4:1-12 (ESV)

Peter and John are arrested and brought before the religious court for proclaiming that Jesus is risen. The Holy Spirit helps them to testify about Jesus as the only One who saves.

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE INTROIT

Psalm 95

L: I am the good | shepherd.* I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

C: Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;* let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

L: Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;* let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!

C: For the LORD is a | great God,* and a great King a- | bove all gods.

L: Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;* let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!

C: For he | is our God,* and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

L: I am the good | shepherd.* know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:16-24 (ESV)

There is no condemnation for the one who believes in Jesus. Knowing his love for us, we have a duty to put that love into action with one another.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

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GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-18 (ESV)

Jesus is our Good Shepherd who laid down his life for all sheep - for all people.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St John the tenth chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachel Saunders

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

#709

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"What Shall I Render to the Lord"

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

#740

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Mike Neidow, Rev Ben Kaiser, Emmanuel Lutheran Church & School, York

Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

For Our Congregation and Community:
Rita Ritterling, healing from a broken arm

Karen Stuart (Roy Richter's mother), recovering from open heart surgery

Denny Conell recovering from open heart surgery

Dealing with an illness: LaVern Stuhr, Joan Naber,
Andrea Swanson Kuester, Jenni Conell, Shelley Scheele,
Stephen Ramsey, Christal Fehlhafer, Roger Rhodes, Aaron DeWaard,
Paula Huebschman (Jamie Ramsey's mother),
Mitch Peeks, Hawley Family
Bill Chessar (brother of Teresa Rathjen), Sheila Franks,
Dick Greenwood, Linda Ehlers,
Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother),
Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law),
Mya Noreen (Great Grand Daughter of Darlene Link)

Recovering from surgery: **Dennis Conell**, Lois Richters, Jackie Corner, Collin Sansom, Duane Barth,
Anna (Friend of DuAnne Deremer)

Declining Health: Norma Ehlers

**God bless all the people who bring joy and light into my quiet world with cards, visits and prayers.
You are God's hands at work. Norma**

April 25, 2021 10:00 AM-This is the life-The Prisoners-An elderly woman is attacked by a teenage gang.

10:30 AM-Rev. Kurt Laskowski, pastor at Zion Lutheran in Hurley, and First English Lutheran Church in Centerville, SD brings the message "Boldly Confess Christ". He bases the message on Acts 4:1-12. The program is interpreted and closed captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information go to the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com

Summer Camp Brochures As you're making plans for summer, remember Camp Luther of Nebraska has great outdoor camps of all types for kids and families! Brochures with more details are available at the welcome center. Scholarships are also available through our congregation; talk to Pastor Dunbar if you're interested. Visit their website to sign up now! www.campluther.org.

Special Confirmation Worship Times

On **Sunday, May 2nd** our worship services will be held at 8:00 & 10:00am, with the Rite of Confirmation in the 10:00am service. (No 9AM service or Sunday School that day!) Due to the extra guests in attendance that day, we are asking those without any connection to our confirmands to please plan to attend the 8:00am service. The Confirmation Service will be live-streamed for anyone who wishes to see it.

The LLL spring rally will be held on Sunday, May 2nd at St. John's Lutheran Church, Waco in the Fellowship Hall beginning with registration at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 per person including the meal. The speaker is Dr. Dennis Brink from Concordia University who is the director of the new Ag Program. League presidents please call your group reservations to Raymond Luebbe 402-363-9829 by Monday, April 26th.

Changes in Social Distancing & Communion You may notice that we have begun to relax our social distancing in the sanctuary. Due to the decrease in new COVID cases and wide availability of vaccinations, portions of our seating will no longer be distanced. Pews near the back of the sanctuary will remain roped off for those who wish to maintain distance. Beginning in May we plan on returning to regular communion distribution at the front of church, using only individual cups. We continue to encourage wearing a mask as recommended by Four Corners Health Department. Thank you for your patience and grace as we move ahead. God is good! -St. Paul Board of Elders

The Wednesday evening women's Bible study that has been meeting at church is being moved to Jami Utter's house for the time being. We will still meet from 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings. Please join us for some time in God's word and great discussion! Address is 705 E Street, Utica. See you there!

Welcome our New Visitation Pastor! God has heard our prayers and provided St. Paul's with a new Pastor of Visitation. After meetings with Pastor Dunbar and our Head Elder, Rev. Dr. Terry Groth of Seward has agreed to begin making visits to our shut-ins starting in May. The hope is that he would be extended a call by the Voters later this month. Here is a message from him:

Greetings, St. Paul, Utica! I look forward to being formally introduced to you at the worship services on May 2nd and to serving as St. Paul's new visitation pastor. By way of brief introduction, my wife Lorraine and I just celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary and are blessed to have five grown children and ten grandchildren. I retired last July from teaching theology at Concordia University, Seward for 15 years. Before that I served as a pastor in Edwardsville, IL for 21 years. I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve in the parish ministry once again. See you soon! Pastor Terry Groth