



Sunday, April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B
 All Saints Lutheran Church,
 ELCA

Meeting people where they're at
 and connecting them to the *full*
life of Christ.

Centering Song

ACS 1024- refrain, verses 1-3, refrain

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

Refrain

Kwa - ke Ye - su na - si - ma - ma, ndi - ye
 Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the
 mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma. Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -
 sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my
 ma, ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
 life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.

1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
 2 It is not the work of my hands that has
 3 When my days on this earth are done, and I
 storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
 washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
 stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y
 flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
 days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
 fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Refrain

Announcements

Introduction

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his

life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Gathering Hymn- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
ELW 385

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.
Amen.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official

entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Canticle of Praise: Canticle of the Turning ELW 723

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,

for the world is about to turn. *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.

Children's Sermon

Traveling Song: ACS 1024, refrain only

Hear The Word of God through Scripture

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.”

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

Psalm 23

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

Refrain

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love
in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

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.

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

Gospel Acclamation

WOV 612

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

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.”

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Have No Fear, Little Flock ELW 764

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
 have no fear, little flock,
 for the Father has chosen
 to give you the kingdom;
 have no fear, little flock!

- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
 have good cheer, little flock,
 for the Father will keep you
 in his love forever;
 have good cheer, little flock!

- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
 praise the Lord high above,
 for he stoops down to heal you,
 uplift and restore you;
 praise the Lord high above!

- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
 thankful hearts raise to God,
 for he stays close beside you,
 in all things works with you;
 thankful hearts raise to God!

Prayers of Intercession | O God We Call - ACS 1075

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.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. 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 grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, 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 in our own day. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Peace is Shared

Offering Sweet Hour of Prayer

All Saints Bell Choir

Offering Prayer

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus is Sung! Setting 3 page 144

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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 you and 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.

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

Send your Holy Spirit, our Advocate, to fill the hearts of all who
share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue
love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

**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**

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Communion Songs: Setting 3, page 146 ELW

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW 502

Blessing of The Meal

Prayer After Communion

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,
our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: Build a Longer Table ACS 1062

- 1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
 feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
 Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
 Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

- 2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
 where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
 For any place where justice is denied,
 Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

- 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
 Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
 When we embrace compassion more than fear,
 Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
 Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
 So must our tables welcome those who roam.
 None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Sending of You, the Disciples of Christ

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!