

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM
Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 6:30 PM

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book 475
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

Divine Service Setting One

Lutheran Service Book pg. 151

Introit

Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

Congregation chants versus in **bold**

I am the good | shepherd.*

I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life | for the sheep.

The LORD is my | shepherd;*

I | shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*

He leads me beside still | waters.

He re- | stores my soul.*

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His | name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for You are | with me;*

Your rod and Your staff, they | comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;*

You anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

**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.**

I am the good | shepherd.*

I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life | for the sheep.

Kyrie

p. 152

Hymn of Praise - *This is the Feast*

p. 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day

p. 156

The First Reading

Acts 4:1-12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the 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 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But 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? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. ²³And 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. ²⁴Whoever keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

LSB 709

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The Sermon

“They’ll Listen to My Voice”

Text:

John 10:11-18

The Nicene Creed

p. 158

Prayer of the Church

p. 159

The Offertory

p. 159

Liturgy of Holy Communion

p. 160

Distribution Hymns

LSB 711, 482, 684, 756

Post-Communion Canticle

p. 164

Collect

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Hymn

LSB 477

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

✘ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✘

Visitors, we welcome you. Please sign the guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor. Also complete a blue attendance card located in the pews and put an X in the () if you will be communing with us. We invite you to join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thursday	4/11/24	6:30 p.m.	34
Sunday	4/14/24	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	89 45

FLOWERS are given by Sandy Schopf in memory of her father, Melvin Nelson.

WE PRAY for Joe Ananias (nephew of Lori Bolger), Michael Borchardt, Sr., Janet Brown, Melissa Brunner (daughter of Estes Grober and niece of the Gerloffs), Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Kevin Coerper, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Randall Gray (brother of Linda Goetz), Dale Grudzina (friend of the Wangs), Judy Hanson, Elaine Howe, Paul Howe, Michelle Johnson, Patricia Kattner (aunt of Amanda McGraw, sister of Pam Coerper), Marilyn Kolter, May Lindenberg, Barbara Linder, Konnie Otto, Angeline Pence, Laurelle Rendon (cousin of Linda Goetz), Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Sherri Syta, and Glen and Jeff Wolffersdorff (brothers of Donna Metzfeld).

SERVICE CHANGE In order to allow more opportunities for our parish family to intermingle, our Pastor and our Board of Elders have planned for a single Sunday Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. This will begin on Memorial Day weekend and end after Labor Day weekend. The Thursday 6:30 p.m. Divine Service will continue.

PRAYER OF COMFORT for the family of Romaine Joy Marquardt, who passed away on Sunday, April 14. Funeral services will take place Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Alta, Iowa. Burial will be Friday, April 26, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Arlington Park Cemetery in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Blessed are those who die in the Lord for they shall inherit eternal life.

TROJAN HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK While studying various forms of poetry, Mrs. Burgess's 5th and 6th grade students embarked on some limerick writing. They even learned how to analyze the metrical patterns with scansion marks on their completed creations!

MEMORIAL GIFT The bible cover was purchased with the Lois Kennedy memorial funds. It is silver and gold plated, with icons of the resurrection and the four evangelists on the front cover and the burial of Christ on the back cover. It is encased in burgundy leather, with brass-plated rosettes on four corners. We thank the family for this beautiful gift to the church in her name.

CHILDCARE FUNDRAISER The Childcare will host their annual Spring fundraiser to help finance updates and repairs to the facility and the classrooms! We are selling Pops Kettle Corn and Country Meats Beef Sticks! Orders are due **Monday, April 29**. We welcome your participation in this fundraising event and appreciate your involvement! Fundraiser flyers can be found in the narthex of the church or in the school office for your convenience. If you have any questions please contact Amanda McGraw at (414) 282-9057 or via email amcgraw@ourfatherslutheran.org. Thank you.

WALK-A-THON The 6th annual Walk-a-Thon is Sunday, May 19. The goal is to raise \$20,000 to help pay for new sign(s) along Honey Creek Drive and new windows for campus building. See the forms in the church narthex to either sign up to walk or make a pledge. T-shirt order forms are due Friday, April 26. There is also an online giving option on our website, www.ofls.org, to donate.

INVITE PASTOR TO DINNER There is still one Thursday open in May if you would like to host a dinner for Pastor before church. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn Lagerman at 414-333-7994.

TOUR THE HOLY LAND in Lent of 2025! Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield will be leading a tour to the Holy Land next March. To see all the destinations **PLUS** an optional trip extension to Egypt, and for dates and registration info, go to registernow.ittworld.com and put in the tour code Koch25 to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. Note that there is a discount if you register before May 17. If you have any questions, feel free to call Pastor Koch at 414-795-9005.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	4/21	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday	4/24	CHAPEL SERVICE Morning Bible Study	8:10 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Thursday	4/25	DIVINE SERVICE	6:30 p.m.
Sunday	4/28	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

“They’ll Listen to My Voice”
April 21 through April 27, 2024

In the early Church the Introit marked the entrance of the redeemed people into the presence of God. Thus, it consisted of several psalms chanted by choirs. Today, it has been shortened to a few verses from the psalm of the day. As sinners you enter into God's presence seeking His mercy in all the matters which concern you in this life. The God of Mercy is the God who created the heavens and the earth and you seek His mercy for all creation which is trapped in the bondage of sin. In the "Glory to God in the highest" you sing with your mouth and hear with your ears the wondrous answer of God who sent His Son as a Child in Bethlehem. "This is the Feast" speaks of redemption accomplished and the recreation of the world by the Lamb of God. In the collect, or prayer, of the day which follows the thoughts of the day are summarized in a brief prayer which focuses on the work of God among us and prepares your ears to hear the Scriptures.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

THE CREED

VERSE: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 147:1-11

PSALMODY PRAYER: We praise You, O Lord, that You have gathered us as outcasts from the ends of the earth into Your holy Church. Lift up the humble, heal the brokenhearted, and give refuge to Your people that they may ever sing Your praise.
AMEN.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	1 Samuel 13:1-14
Tuesday	1 Samuel 14:52-15:9
Wednesday	1 Samuel 15:10-35
Thursday	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Friday	1 Samuel 16:14-23
Saturday	John 15:1-8

CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties

To Wives

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. *Ephesians 5:22*

They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. *1 Peter 3:5-6*

Luther, On Romans 6:6, 10 (1516): Therefore, the term “body of sin” ought not be understood as something mystical, as many people do who imagine that “body of sin” refers to a whole mountain of evil works, but rather it refers to this very body which we are carrying around. It is called the “body of sin” because it inclines against the spirit and toward sin. And the seed of the devil dwells in it; hence the Lord in Gen. 3:15 says: “I will put enmity between your seed and her seed.” The seed of the woman is the Word of God in the church, because it inclines toward righteousness and good works. The seed of the devil is sin itself, the tinder and evil lust in our flesh. . . . The flesh has the seed of the devil in it and is seeking to bring forth sin and bear sinful fruit. But the Spirit possesses the seed of God and seeks to bring forth righteousness and the fruits of righteousness. . . . *The death He died He died to sin.* The meaning is that we must undergo this spiritual death only once. For whoever dies thus lives for all eternity. Therefore, we must not return to our sin in order to die to sin again. . . . For death does not put an end to this kind of life against its will, as it does with physical life, but this is the beginning of eternal life. Hence we read in John 11:26: “Whoever believes in Me shall never die,” that is, as long as he does not willingly turn away from this spiritual life, he cannot die. This spiritual life will be strengthened in the future in such a way that a person cannot be turned away, for no one would want to be turned away who has been given the complete perfection of an eternal will. For just as the ray of the sun is eternal because the sun is eternal, so the spiritual life is eternal because Christ is eternal, so also the grace which flows out of Him is from His eternal nature. Furthermore, just because a man sins again his spiritual life does not die, but he turns his back on this life and dies, while this life remains eternal in Christ. . . . Hence also we are baptized only once, by which we gain the life of Christ, even though we often fall and rise

again. For the life of Christ can be recovered again and again, but a person can enter upon it only once, just as a man who has never been rich can begin to get rich only once, although he can again and again lose and regain his wealth. *But the life He lives He lives to God.* Nothing lives to God, however, except that which lives eternally and spiritually, because God is eternal and a spirit, before whom nothing counts except what is spiritual and eternal; but the flesh and temporal things are nothing with Him. Therefore, since this life is eternal, it is necessary that the man who dies to sin should die only once, since only an eternal life can follow this kind of death, and in this life there can be no death, for otherwise it would not be eternal. Nor can a person who died once to sin die to sin again, because eternal righteousness follows this death and this righteousness never sins again. (LW 25:314-315)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord's Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

OR

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB 526 "You Are the Way; through You Alone" (stanza 1)

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WEEK OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Confidence in Abiding"
April 28, 2024

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 595, 700, 633, 544, 474, 691

READINGS

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:1-11 (12-21)
John 15:1-8

For the second Sunday in a row we will consider an "I AM" saying. The Gospel of John is filled with these "I AM" references. Some of them are even hidden by the English translations. Jesus uses this title to identify Himself as true God. "I AM" is the name God gives to Moses at the burning bush when he tells him to say, "I AM has sent me." In the Gospel of John "I AM" comes to His people for the Father sends His Son. When Jesus identifies Himself as the Vine He is saying that He is the fulfillment of Israel. In Isaiah 5 the prophet writes a parable describing Israel as a Vine. Later, in Is. 11, the vine is chopped down, but a tender shoot comes up from the stump. Grafted into Christ through Holy Baptism like the Ethiopian eunuch, the faithful become the branches. Faith is abiding in the Vine and receiving all the gifts which He has to give. The Lutheran Confessions rightly point out that the true worship of God is faith which receives God's gifts. Such faith then bears fruit, not by its own power, but by virtue of the life-giving gifts of God at work in the faithful. Faith is the fulfillment of all the commandments for it is the first and greatest commandment. It is the work of the Spirit to keep us in the Vine as He brings the work and benefits of Christ to us. When faith is present then the good works of the other commandments will follow. Love for God always precedes love for neighbor, but always leads to it also.

Our Father's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Childcare

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

www.ofls.org

Rev. Dr. Mark Nuckols, Pastor Church (414) 282-8220

Mr. Bob Cahill, Principal School (414) 282-7500

Mrs. Amanda McGraw Childcare (414) 282-9057
Mrs. Michelle Sroka
Childcare Co-Directors

Organists: *Sunday*-Stephen Johnson sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org
Thursday-Ben Culli