

# Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024

## PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Cong: Amen.**

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God,

**All: in mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

## HYMN

***The King of Love My Shepherd Is.....ELW #502***

1. The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877 Public Domain

## GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Cong: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**All: 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.**

## HOLY SCRIPTURE

### 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."

### PSALM 23

<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 re-assure 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.

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

[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.”

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***You Satisfy the Hungry Heart.....WOV #711***

Gift of Finest Wheat

*Refrain:*

*You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.*

2. With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude  
That you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heav'nly food.

*Refrain*

3. Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?

*Refrain*

4. The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.

*Refrain*

## **NICENE CREED**

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

Pastor: 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.

Each petition ends with "God of grace "

**The response is "Hear our prayer"**

Pastor: 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.

**Cong: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

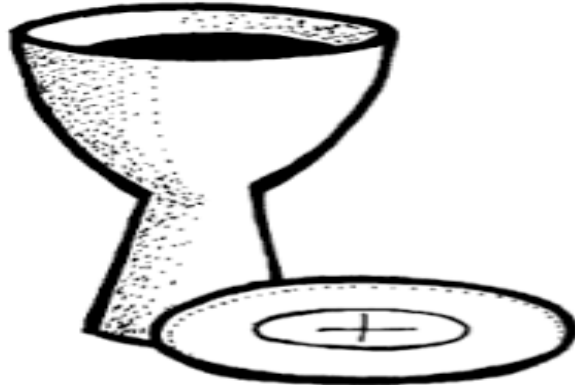
Pastor: Let us Pray....

**All: 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.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

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



## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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; 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.**

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**Cong: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**All: 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.**

## **FINAL BLESSING**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless us now and always.

**All: Amen.**

## **SEND FORTH IN SONG**

Pastor: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Cong: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## SENDING HYMN

***The Lord Now Sends Us Forth.....ELW #538***

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
To make of all the earth a better place to live.

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
To make of all the earth a better place to live.

The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
To do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
That falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
To do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
That falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923 English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Adult Bible Study** Join Pastor each Wednesday evening at 7 PM in the lounge (hallway behind the stage in Fellowship Hall) Easy entry through Ohio Ave. automatic doors/ no steps.

**Sunday School/All Ages @9:30 Sundays'** Grades Pre-k-6th meet in the Pre-K classroom for opening with praise music & lesson videos.

**Adults** are welcome to join Rev. Steel behind the stage in the lounge.

**7th grade-Adults** can see Pastor Gregory for a Faith exploration class.

**Community Table** Great news!! Liz Hulsizer has graciously volunteered to lead us in relaunching community table as "**Judy's Table.**" More information to come!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Senior Adult Group** Will meet for lunch **Wednesday, May 15th**, 12 Noon at the Grand Valley Inn. Please see Regina Blinn 724-843-7707 to sign-up.

THREERIVERS  
RINGERS

# BELL CHANGES



**FREE  
CONCERT!**  
*donations are encouraged*

**Friday, April 12**  
7:30pm

**Resurrection Parish  
(St. Thomas More  
Church)**

126 Fort Couch Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

**Saturday, April 13**  
7:30pm

**St. John's  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

715 Lincoln Highway  
North Versailles, PA  
15137

**Sunday, April 21**  
4:00pm

**Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church**

900 East Beau Street  
Washington, PA 15301

**Sunday, April 28**  
4:00pm

**St. Stephen's  
Church**

405 Frederick Ave  
Sewickley, PA 15143

**Sunday, May 5**  
4:00pm

**Trinity Lutheran**  
120 Sunset Drive  
Butler, PA 16001

**SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA:  
OR, VISIT [THREERIVERSRINGERS.ORG](http://THREERIVERSRINGERS.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS**





Beaver Valley Choral Society  
Spring Pops Concert

# Land That I Love!

**SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**

**4:00 P.M.**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROCHESTER**

Featuring the Principal Choir, Orchestra,  
and Treble Youth Chorale

**Music to celebrate our great nation!**

**Free and open to the public**