

Welcome  
We are thankful you have joined us today!

**Hymn**

All Hail the Power | 549

*Please stand.*

**Confession & Absolution**

☩ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ **Amen.** [Matt 28:19b; 18:20]

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** [1 John 1:8-9]

*Quiet time for self-examination and confession*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

**Lord, Have Mercy**

[Mark 10:47; Setting I]

☩ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 21, 2024 – Setting One

*When he has found [the lost sheep], he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. Luke 15:5*

There is scarcely any more precious illustration in the whole Gospel than when the Lord Christ compares himself to a shepherd carrying back to the flock, on his shoulders, the sheep that was lost. He is still carrying to this day.

Therefore the sum of the gospel is this: The kingdom of Christ is a kingdom of grace and mercy, in which there is never anything but carrying. Christ bears our griefs and infirmities. He takes our sins upon himself and is patient when we fall. We always rest on his shoulders, and he never tires of carrying us, which should be the greatest comfort to us when we are tempted to sin. Preachers in this kingdom should comfort the consciences, and deal kindly with them, and feed them with the gospel. They should carry the weak, heal the sick, and know just how to minister the Word to each person according to their need.

–Martin Luther, Sermon on Luke 10:23-27

## Hymn of Praise—This Is The Feast

[Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9]

*Sung to music on page 155*

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

- W Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**
- M Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. **Refrain**
- W Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen **Refrain**
- M For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
**Refrain**

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** [1 Timothy 4:22]

Let us pray...*[silence for individual prayer]* 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.**

*Please be seated.*

### Readings from God's Word

The First Reading is from Acts:

**A**nd 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." [Acts 4:1-12]

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

## Psalm 23—Shepherd me, O God



*Verses sung by soloist/choir:*

*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***

*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***

*Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and staff,  
my comfort and hope. **Refrain***

*You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. **Refrain***

*Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore. **Refrain***

### The Epistle Reading is from First John:

**B**y 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. [1 John 3:16-24]

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

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse. [John 6:68]



The Holy Gospel according to St. John:



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.”

[John 10:11-18]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

### Children's Talk

[Mark 10:14-16; Matt 19:14; Luke 18:16-17]

The children are invited forward for a message based on today's Scripture readings led by Pastor Erkkinen.

## Hymn The King of Love My Shepherd Is | 709

### Sermon

#### Our Confession of Faith

Please stand to confess the *Apostles' Creed* printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.

#### Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

...let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Those for whom we pray are listed on the *Life at Faith* insert. Please be seated.

#### Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay

## Offertory Hymn We Give Thee | 781 (1-4)



### Sacrament of the Altar [2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

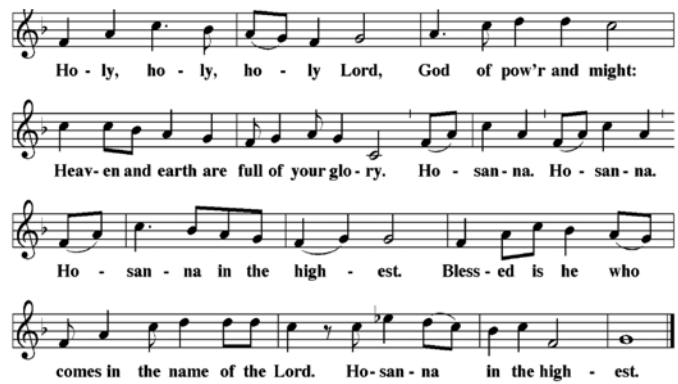
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And most especially are we bound to praise you on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By his dying he destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter, James, and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

#### The Holy, Holy, Holy [Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]



#### The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

[Matt 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25]

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

[1 Cor 11:26; Rev 22:20]

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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. [Matt 6:9-13]

The peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen. [John 20:19]

Lamb of God [John 1:29]

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.

Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns

The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.

Hymn Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us | 711  
 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want | 710

Post Communion Song [Luke 2:29-32]

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
 Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
 He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with  
 shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray... one God, now and forever. Amen.

Announcements

Benediction [Hebrew 13:20-21]

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face to shine on  
 you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
 Amen.

Hymn Jesus Shall Reign | 832

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Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

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