

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

May 2-3, 2020

PRELUDE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

C: We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” (v. 1-4)

R789

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their

possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**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.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to

them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Peace to Soothe our Bitter Woes” (v.1-2)

R381

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Hear our cry, O God.

C: Listen to our prayer.

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;

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.

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Rock of Ages” (v. 1-4)

R623

DISMISSAL

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Larry Nelson, Marge Weber, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Julie Troy, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Kevin Reiser, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Bill Estlack, Nick Wittman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Yvonne Stoll, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, Cody Gustin. We also remember the family of Karlene Trump (Corinne Fraley's sister), who passed away April 25.

Prayer Concerns: We are still taking prayer concerns to be included in the weekly bulletin – now becoming weekly news and announcements and more. Please do have the persons permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than just our congregation will know about it.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED

With Governor Whitmer's order to Stay Home and Stay Safe, the church building is closed until May 10th. That is the building is closed but not the work of Grace Lutheran Church or the congregation of Grace. God's work goes on regardless of a building. The staff is now working from home as much as possible. We can now check the phone remotely for messages and will respond. Mail will be picked up daily and put in the office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have changed any contact information since our last church directory, say have a cell phone as your preferred or only contact, do let us know so we have the latest info in the church office.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS – CHRIST IN OUR HOME

If you did not have the chance to pick your copy of *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklet, please let us know. Call or email and we will get a copy out to you. And as many have done if you have shared them with family, friends and neighbors in the past, we will mail them one also.

DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?

Several church members have been making some for the hospital and are willing to make some for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Due to the difficulty in obtaining information necessary to complete the scholarship application, the committee has extended the deadline to June 1, 2020. Completed applications may still be emailed or mailed to the church office.

PEOPLE ARE WATCHING

Our online worship: March 29 - 145 views, Palm/Passion April 5 - 174 views, Easter April 12 - 190 views. And those are just hits on it. So likely multiple people for each hit. And in many places, including Maine, as David Delano's mother watches and shares it with cousins. Keep spreading the word. Because it is GOD'S WORD and it needs to be out there. The world so needs to know of God's love and grace and peace and justice and strength right now. *THANKS*

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Thunder Bay Therapy and Sports Medicine (Ashley Hanson) for their generous donation of food and personal care items to the the Little Food Pantry. Your contribution allows us to continue making a Christ-like difference in our community. --Discipleship Committee

ONLINE WORSHIP RECORDINGS

From our website or Facebook page you can access a video that we have made of scripture, prayers, music and a meditation for the week. Please let others, family, friends and church members know about this.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Though the building is closed, mail is still dealt with daily. So offering envelopes can be sent in and they will be deposited.

SIMPLY GIVING

If you would like to set up a transfer from one of your bank accounts to Grace's, like automatic utility paying, give the office a call and Peggy will help set that up.

GIVE +

You can also go to our website and use the Give + link for a one time contribution or set up a recurring contribution through credit cards.

Thank you to one and all for your faithfulness in your stewardship toward God's work at Grace Lutheran.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,415.00
Weekly giving - April 26	4,122.00

Thank you to all who have dropped off or mailed in envelopes and made donations online.

This week we received: 21 envelopes, 4 new Give+ payments made from our website
1 new recurring donation set up

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GERALD ANDERSON'S SON, MARK.

Pastor Anderson served at Grace Lutheran from 1960 to 1964

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you add my mother, Sharon Anderson (87 years old) to your prayer list. She is the wife of Rev. Gerald Anderson who served your congregation in the years listed below.

She had a series of small strokes early this week, and is currently at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah. She is rather weak in her right leg and arm. Her speech has been affected, but is progressing well. Doctors do think she should regain 80-90% of her function, with therapy. Please pray for her medical team as they diagnose and provide the best treatment plan for her recovery. In addition to strength and healing, we ask for peace and calm as she and my dad navigate the hospital during the restrictions of the pandemic. I will post updates on Facebook as there is more to share, and time allows.

Cards can be sent to their home:

992 Westfield Ln
Neenah WI 54956

(funny ones are appreciated too)

With gratitude,
Mark Anderson
Arlington Heights, IL

SOME WORDS OF STEWARDSHIP
from a letter by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Weeks may have passed since you last walked in the doors of your congregation and worshiped, face-to-face, with your community of faith. To be sure, being the body of Christ looks and feels differently than it ever has before.

Despite all of this, we are called to be church — together. The ministry of your local church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) looks different now, but it has not stopped. Nor have the needs of our communities and the world. Our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need.

The congregations and ministries of our church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. Without in-person worship services for many weeks, the financial impact could be devastating.

Please continue to give to your congregation and give regularly. Your congregation and its leaders continue to minister to your community of faith. This ministry relies on your weekly offerings. Find out how you can continue your pledge or regular offering though online giving, automatic monthly giving or mail.

I know that, for many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great.

I have been reflecting on the words of Peter: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10). Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

Be of good courage, dear church, and remember that Christ is with us now and always.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America