

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: APRIL 25, 2021

RINGING OF THE BELL

SILENCE: Pray for open hearts & minds to Jesus and his gifts of grace in Word & Sacrament.

PRELUDE



LIGHT

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. **Amen.** The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG #836 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray (pause). 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.

WORD

THE READING 1 John 3:16-18

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and

action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. 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.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM from Psalm 23. Our response is “You restore my soul, O Lord.”

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. **Response.**

You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake. **Response.**

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. **Response.**

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

“Alleluia! Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia!

#172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

APOSTLE’S CREED p. 105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, we place our trust in you and offer our prayers. Our response will be “Hear our prayer.”

Help us to find ways to reach out to those who are on the margins or who have never been offered the good news of God’s grace. Lord, in your mercy:

May the marks of our parish community be mercy, kindness, and humility. Lord, in your mercy:

As you prepare a table for us in your heavenly kingdom, may the table we prepare here always be open to everyone. Lord, in your mercy:

Renew our sense of wonder and responsibility for toward all of creation. Lord, in your mercy:

Other . . .

Sick . . .

Bishops . . .

May God bless us with grateful hearts, that we may praise and thank God unceasingly, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG FOR THE GIFTS #502 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Blessed are you, Lord God, of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS

Let us pray (pause). God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Live in us and send us to be instruments of peace in this wounded world, for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for sending Jesus into the world to show us your heart of love. Praise to you for raising Jesus from the dead to be with us always offering the gift of forgiveness and the hope of heaven.

Before he was given up to death . . .

We offer this bread and cup to you with joy and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life we name before those whose anniversary of death we remember this week: Doris Wenner, Bud Neiderhouser, Pat Jordan, and Gladys Umbaugh. We rejoice in the new life they share with you and all the saints.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ in the world. Breathe new life into us Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Through him, with him, in him; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

OUR FATHER & SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. Jesus, Good Shepherd of the Sheep, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. Jesus, Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us your peace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray (pause). Wellspring of joy, through this meal you gladden our hearts with forgiveness and the hope of heaven. Send us forth from your table to carry your love to others, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS AT THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP

Loving God, bless our families and fill our homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Especially send your blessing upon Harold & Dawn Youngblood and their family, Janet Zeisneiss and her family; Bobby & Kathi Abrahams and their family. Protect them, guide them, and deepen their love for you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE