



Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 14, 2024 – 9:00am

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

**Sunday—9:00am Worship Service**

**Preaching: Pastor Judy Wozniak**

**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon

**Reader:** Keith Johnson

**Sound:** Al Skellenger

**Live Stream:** Brad Evenson

**Acolytes:** Jaden Swanson, Katelyn Grothe

**Liturgical Choir:**

**Communion Servers:** Dianne and Laura Gardner, Allison and Dan Rice, Jaden Swanson, Katelyn Grothe

**Worship Coordinator:** Willie Skellenger

**Ushers:** Lyle & OrLoue Thomson, John Charlson

**Altar Guild for April:** Margaret Okland, Linda Helgeson

**The Live Stream Broadcast is Sponsored by  
The Bill & Linda Tweeten Family**

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## INTRODUCTION

*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### BELLS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Love on another, even when love involves risk.

**We love as God loves us.**

Love and care for others, even when caring is hard.

**We love and care as God loves and cares for us.**

Love in truth and action.

**By this we are known as children of God.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Merciful shepherd, give us the grace to love as you love.

**Give us the courage to love people who frighten us. Grant us the mercy to love with the same great love you have for us.**

Guide us as we learn to hear and welcome different voices.

**Love through us, that we may welcome and include every person to your community of love. Awaken our hearts to your generosity, when we neglect to embrace and include others.**

Forgive us when our love is absent.

**Renew your love in our hearts, that our love may expand and enfold all of your people on earth. In your love and grace, we pray. Amen.**

Beloved of God, hear this good news! The Spirit abides in each of us-loving us, loving us through us, forgiving us, and forgiving through us.

**Thanks be to God!**

**GATHERING HYMN** *The King of Love My Shepard Is (vs. 1-4)* ELW #502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray,* 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.**

*(\*\*\*Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

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## WORD

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### 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.”

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalm 23

*We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.*

<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 reassure 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.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

(*\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.*)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* (Refrain) **ELW #382**

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**GOSPEL**

John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.”

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

(*\*\*\*Please be seated.*)

**SERMON**

(*\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW #764



1	Have	no	fear,	lit - tle	flock;	have	no	fear,	lit - tle
2	Have	good	cheer,	lit - tle	flock;	have	good	cheer,	lit - tle
3	Praise	the	Lord	high a -	bove;	praise	the	Lord	high a -
4	Thank - ful	hearts	raise to	God;	thank - ful	hearts	raise to		



flock,	for	the	Fa -	ther	has	cho -	sen	to
flock,	for	the	Fa -	ther	will	keep	you	in
bove,	for	he	stoops	down	to	heal	you,	up -
God,	for	he	stays	close	be -	side	you,	in



give	you	the	king -	dom;	have	no	fear,	lit -	tle	flock!
his	love	for -	ev -	er;	have	good	cheer,	lit -	tle	flock!
lift	and	re -	store	you;	praise	the	Lord	high	a -	bove!
all	things	works	with	you;	thank -	ful	hearts	raise	to	God!

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' 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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

*(\*\*\*Please be seated.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

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## **MEAL**

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### **OFFERING**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*(\*\*\*Please be seated.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

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.

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

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### **SENDING**

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### **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of  
Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;  
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

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