



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Service with Communion/ Senior Recognition

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**This worship is being live streamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.**

NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshipers’ response, and \* means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Lisa Webb*

Acolyte: *Nate Miller*

Video: *Tim Jenson*

Communion Assistant: *Lisa Webb*

Ushers: *Dave Blicher, Mike Litzkow, Tim Jenson*

## **GATHERING**

\* GREETING 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.**

GATHERING HYMN

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

LBW#456- verses 1-4

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness  
faileth never; I nothing lack if  
I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed  
soul he leadeth and, where the verdant  
pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in  
love he sought me, and on his shoulder  
gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear  
Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my  
comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

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## Sunday School Sings

\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM Blessed be the holy Trinity, † the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

**Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow**

LBW#564

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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## **GROWING**

Our first reading is from 1<sup>st</sup> John, 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**1 John 3:16-24** (NIV)

*Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.*

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Here ends the first reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reading from Psalm 23 responsively.

**Psalm 23** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> **He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,**

<sup>3</sup> He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will 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; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

The Holy Gospel according to John 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 10:11-18** (NIV)

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life only 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 authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O, Christ.**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!**

LBW#144

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flow'rs of song to strew his way; let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing to day with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

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SENIORS RECEIVE QUILTS (graduates will come forward while we finish the hymn of the day)

## \*PRAYERS FOR THE GRADUATE

*A Responsive Prayer for Graduates*

**Gracious**, O Lord may their life be a reflection of your goodness and grace. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

**Reliant**, O Lord may they be reliant on you in every area of life, work, and relationships. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Assured**, O Lord, may they always be assured of your love, presence and protection. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Diligent**, O Lord, may they always remember that that are serving you in this life. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Unwavering**, O Lord, may they always be committed to what is right in every situation they face. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Attentive**, O Lord, may they be attentive to your promises to guide them. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Truthful**, O Lord, may they never lie to themselves or to others. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Eternally-focused**, O Lord, grant them a long life that is promised to them, so they have a proper perspective in living. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Amen.**

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's mission and ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

\*OFFERING HYMN

**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

LBW page 96

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Psalm: 51:10-12

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\*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.**

\*ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION 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.**

It is indeed right and salutary.....

\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\*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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\*INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and drink what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER: 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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Best wishes to all our graduates in their future endeavors: Bodie Folczyk, Madisyn Mohr, Devin Ploeckelman, Kaden Russo, Jillian Schlewitz, Sam Wenzel, Addison Young, Riley Krall, Jacob Osborne, Elijah Sorenson, Neil Topper and Braden Wadell.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join us Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as Sunday School classes will present the memorization work they've been working on all year!

3 yr-K~ Bible Passage;

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade~ The Lords Prayer;

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade~ Books of the Bible



*Join us Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as six young people will be affirming their faith in Jesus Christ during worship.*



Join us Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as we welcome two youth who will be taking Holy Communion for the first time with their families.



## **Wonderful Worth Of A Woman ~**

## **2024 June Women's Retreat**

Please join us June 5 &/or 6 for the Women's Retreat at Luther Park Bible Camp. It will be a relaxing and uplifting time along with an opportunity to meet women from other churches. The registration forms are on a table in the gathering area or in your online newsletter. If you have questions see Claudeen Oebser or Holly Sweeney.



MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care, concern, cheer, or sympathy.

*Please, let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.*

- Sandy Kenefick: 2901 Forbes Ave. Apt. C313 Menomonie, WI 54751
- Lori Jenson: E8799 530<sup>th</sup> Ave. Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Audrey Bracher: Colfax Health & Rehab  
110 Park Drive Room 310, Colfax, WI 54730
- Mary Ausman: E9556 490<sup>th</sup> Ave, Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Anita Clemmens: E8784 555th Lot 128, Elk Mound, WI 54739

### **Giving Through our Website**

Our website now provides us with the opportunity to give donations on-line at any time without banking information. Most people are using credit cards today and not writing checks and now this includes the option of supporting the continuing work of Christ here at Shepherd of the Hill. Even if you only watch our streaming of worship services, you will now have the flexibility to make offerings from your home!

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