



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

106 Maple St.

Reading, OH 45215

513-821-0987 • stpaulreading.org

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Prelude: “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

H. L. von Hayn

Gathering

Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please kneel or stand as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #481 (green hymnal)

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Greeting

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.**

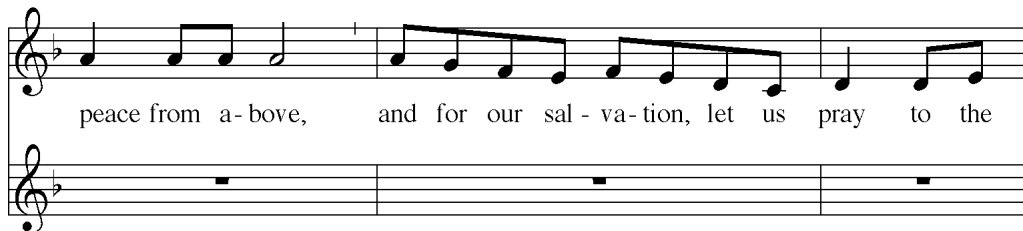
Kyrie

WOV Setting 4

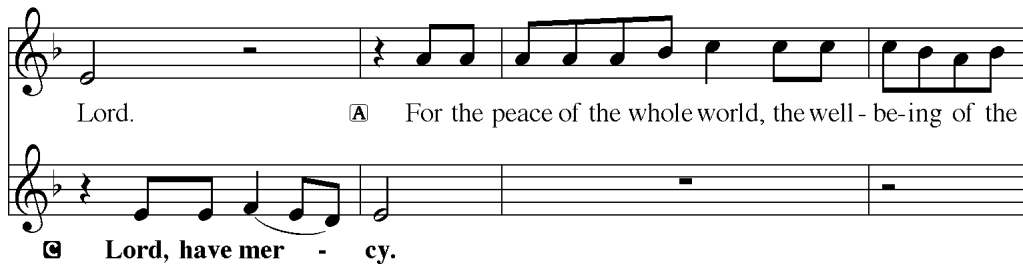


A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

C Lord, have mer - cy.



peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

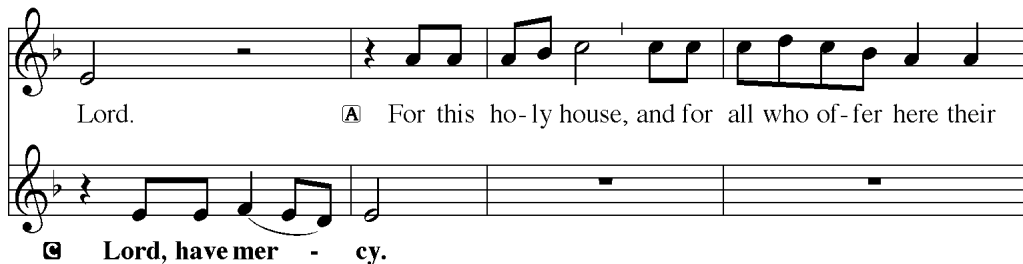


Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.



Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the



Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

☪ Lord, have mer - cy.

☪ Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

☪ A - men

Hymn of Praise

WOV Setting 4

☪ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☪ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. **☪** Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of



all cre - a - tion: ☐ Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and



might to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Christ is risen!

The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. Kathy, as you read to us the scriptures, may they pierce our souls and judge the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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.

¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Hymn #451 (green hymnal)

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation: Hymn #671 (blue hymnal) vv. 1-3

“Alleluia, Alleluia”

The Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

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

Jesus said: ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day #476 (green hymnal)

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

Please stand as you are able.

The Apostles’ Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

A: Let us obey the command God gives us in 1 John 3 and lay down our lives for one another by giving our offering.

Presentation of the Gifts

WOV Setting 4

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

WOV Setting 4

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



☐ Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.



Christ will come a - gain.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for

the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.



P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.



P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

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



The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

WOV Setting 4



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;




have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Communion Hymn #456 (green hymnal)

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

WOV Setting 4



Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

Announcements for God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #196 (green hymnal)

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

Easter Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Go in the peace of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude: “He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!”

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Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Chet Laine, Assisting Minister

Kathy Crosby, Reader

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 21: 4 Easter

9 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
& Discussion

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Quarterly Congregational
Meeting

Monday, April 22

Epistle items due

Wednesday, April 24

2:30 pm Bible study

Sunday, April 28: 5 Easter

9 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
& Discussion

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Committee Fair

Wednesday, May 1

2:30 pm Bible study