



# St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**Fourth Sunday in Easter**

**April 21, 2024**

**10:45 a.m. Worship**



**TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ...** go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/> Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

*The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.*

**NOTE:** Announcements and Prayers can now be found online by clicking on the “Church” tab and then going to “Church”

# One Shepherd and One Flock

*John, in his Gospel, quotes Jesus as "the Good Shepherd." Jesus says that the Good Shepherd lays his life down for the sheep. He compares His relationship to His sheep with the relationship between His Father and Him. Jesus also states that there are sheep outside of the pen that He must bring also. There shall be one flock and one Shepherd. Jesus says He will lay down His life, only to take it up again.*

## "Christ Is Risen"

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Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson and Matt Brock  
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Let no one caught in sin remain  
Inside the lie of inward shame,  
But fix our eyes upon the cross,  
And run to Him who showed great love  
And bled for us, freely You've bled for us.

Chorus: Christ is risen from the dead,  
Trampling over death by death  
Come awake, come awake,  
Come and rise up from the grave.  
Christ is risen from the dead,  
We are one with Him again  
Come awake, come awake,  
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin,  
You bowed to none but heaven's will;  
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,  
No burden great can hold You down.  
In strength You reign; Forever let Your church proclaim: *(Chorus)*

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light;  
The glory of God has defeated the night. Singing:

O death, where is your sting?  
O hell, where is your victory?  
O church, come stand in the light;  
Our God is not dead; He's alive, He's alive! *(Chorus 2x)*

## Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P Lord Jesus, we confess.

C **Forgive us for not looking upon You as our Shepherd.**

P Lord, we would follow You wherever You might lead. Lord, we would follow You. Forgive us when we stumble and when we stray.

C **Forgive us when, distracted, we lose our way. Be the one to whom we turn, whose hand we hold, the Shepherd who leads us safely to the fold.**

P We confess that we fear, even though You are with us, even though You promise to comfort us.

C **Forgive us for forgetting that You have prepared a table for us and that Your goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives.**

P Lord, You are good and upright; instruct us sinners in Your ways. Guide us in what is right and teach us Your ways.

C **For the sake of Your name, Lord, forgive us our sins, though they are great.**

P Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

C **Amen.**

## Introit

*Ps. 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**The LORD is my shepherd;**

**I shall not want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

**He restores my soul.**

**He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

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

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the  
sheep.

## **Collect of the Day**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death  
the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we  
hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by  
name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your  
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*Acts 4:1-12*

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the  
temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they  
were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the  
dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for  
it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed,  
and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in  
Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander,  
and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in  
the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"  
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people  
and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a  
crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all  
of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of  
Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him  
this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected  
by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is  
salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given  
among men by which we must be saved."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 John 3:16-24*

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 10:11-18*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand  
of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Children's Message**

Pastor Josh Parsons

### **♪ "Hymn of Heaven"**

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Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Bill Johnson, Brian Johnson and Chris Davenport  
©2020 CDaves Music | Songs for TIM | Phil Wickham Music | Simply Global Songs | Bethel Music Publishing

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven,  
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets;  
To look upon the One who bled to save me,  
And walk with Him for all eternity.

Chorus: There will be a day when all will bow before Him.  
There will be a day when death will be no more.  
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again.  
Holy, holy is the Lord.

And every prayer, we prayed in desperation;  
The songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear.  
In the end, we'll see that it was worth it  
When He returns to wipe away our tears. (*Chorus*)

And on that day we join the resurrection,  
And stand beside the heroes of the faith.  
With one voice, a thousand generations  
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain.  
Forever He shall reign. (*Chorus*)

Chorus 2: So, let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven.  
With angels and the Saints we raise a mighty roar.  
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave.  
Holy, holy is the Lord.  
Holy, holy is the Lord.  
Holy, holy is the Lord.

## Sermon

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

## The Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

## Communion Preparation

**P** Let us pray.

**C Dear Lord Jesus, by Your power You raised Jesus from death to  
life. Through His victory over the grave we are set free from the  
bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of**

**the children of God. In His rising to life You promise eternal life to all who believe in Him. We praise You that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us. Amen.**

## **The Words of Institution**

### **♪ “Revelation Song”**

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Words and Music by Jennie Lee Riddle  
©2004 Gateway Create Publishing

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;  
Holy, holy is He; sing a new song  
To Him who sits on heaven’s mercy seat. *(Repeat)*

Chorus: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,  
Who was, and is, and is to come;  
With all creation I sing, “Praise to the King of kings!”  
You are my everything, and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color,  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory, and power be,  
To you, the only wise King. *(Chorus)*

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,  
At the mention of Your name;  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath, and living water,  
Such a marvelous mystery. *(Chorus 2x)*

### **♪ “Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me”**

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Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren  
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What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer.  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.  
For my life is wholly bound to his.  
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.



The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,  
For by my side the Savior, he will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need, his power is displayed.  
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.  
Through the deepest valley he will lead.  
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,  
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.  
Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.  
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For he has said that he will bring me home.  
And day by day I know he will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.  
All the glory evermore to him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless thee and keep thee.  
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

**C** Amen.

## **Announcements**

## Blessing and Dismissal

**P** Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

**C Amen.**

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## ♪ “Chain Breaker”

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Words and Music by Jonathan Smith, Mia Fieldes and Zach Williams

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If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles;  
If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies;  
If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside,  
There's a better life, there's a better life.

Chorus: If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.  
If you feel lost, He's a way maker.  
If you need freedom or saving,  
He's a prison shaking Savior.  
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night.  
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight.  
We've all run to things we know just ain't right,  
When there's a better life, there's a better life. (*Chorus*)

If you believe it, if you receive it;  
If you can feel it; somebody testify.

If you believe it, if you receive it;  
If you can feel it; somebody testify, testify.  
If you believe it, if you receive it;  
If you can feel it; somebody testify.

Chorus: If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.  
If you feel lost, He's a way maker.  
If you need freedom or saving,  
He's a prison shaking Savior.  
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

Ending: Oh, if you need freedom or saving,  
He's a prison shaking Savior.  
If you got chains, well, He's a chain breaker.

## General Announcements

### 1. Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministries

- a. The ministry which coordinates volunteers such as St. John's, enabling us to conduct services inside the Midland Co. Jail, is having a banquet on **Thursday, May 2nd at 6:00 PM** at the Great Hall Banquet and Convention Center.
- b. If you are interested in learning more about their ministry and would like to attend the banquet, please RSVP at [jailministry.org](http://jailministry.org) by **Saturday, April 27th**.
- c. Please see Pastor Parsons with any questions.

### 2. LifeClinic

- a. LifeClinic is excited to gather with supporters at LAUGH FOR LIFE to celebrate what God has done and what He is doing to restore hope, eliminate barriers, and empower choices for life in our community.
- b. On **May 2, 2024** Laugh for Life will be held at the Horizon Center in Saginaw. Enjoy dinner and family-friendly entertainment by comedian Mike Williams. Mike will have you rolling on the floor with laughter, while building your reverence for the work of local lifesaving organizations like LifeClinic. Go to [lifeclinic.org/partners/events-fundraisers/](http://lifeclinic.org/partners/events-fundraisers/). Select St. John's Lutheran Church from the drop-down menu as your host table.

### 3. Home to Stay

- a. Ten Midland area churches, including St. John's Lutheran Church, worked together in 1969 to create Home to Stay (formerly Midland Area Homes), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent and combat homelessness.
- b. Will you join in support of this mission? Home to Stay is hosting its "**Welcome Home**" luncheon on **Wednesday, May 22nd from 11:30 - 1:00 pm** at the Midland County Country Club. RSVP to [info@myhometostay.org](mailto:info@myhometostay.org) or (989) 496-9550. Lunch is free of charge.
- c. We hope you can attend!

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