CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD, WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CHICAGO FOLK SERVICE APRIL 30, 2023 10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 901 EAST STROOP ROAD KETTERING, OH 45429-4688 (937) 298-0136

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Introduction

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Tables Spread for Life Abundant

Sometimes a table is spread in a generous fashion but still feels impersonal, like the buffet at a big conference. You can fill your plate as many times as you want, but that doesn't change the fact that you're wearing a printed name tag because no one in the room actually knows your name.

And sometimes a table spread seems meager because it's the end of the month or you didn't have time to make it to the store, but you're with friends who feel like family, so no one is worried about how simple the meal is.

Today we have the best of both worlds. We have abundance to the point of extravagance, and we have a God who knew our names even before we were born. We have a table heaped with grace upon grace and our heads anointed with oil, and we have a God whose voice we recognize as soon as we hear our names spoken aloud. All our beloveds have been invited, and every last one of us has a name card in front of our plates, handwritten in our favorite color, no doubt. Today we're reminded that even when the world feels like a wreck, God shows up with abundance, inviting us by name.

Where have you noticed this lately? Where have you noticed goodness and mercy following you around? Where have you noticed evidence that God wants you to experience life? In the feisty weeds poking up through the cracks in the sidewalks? In the hope of the students who are so close to summer break they can taste it? In the bright sunshine breaking through the clouds not thirty seconds after the thunder stops? In the youngest members of your worshiping community, skipping forward with their hands outstretched for bread and blessing?

It's there, this evidence of God's life abundant. Go looking for it. Go looking to remind someone else. It's way too good to miss.

** Indicates to stand as you are able.



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

** GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation:



** ACT OF RECONCILIATION

- Leader: Dear members of God's family, branded in baptism and united in Christ, let us come together honestly to tell God that we have not lived as we could and ask him to forgive us:
- All: Our Father, we have not fulfilled the hope in which you created us. We repent and ask your mercy that our sin be forgiven and our guilt removed. Help us to learn from scripture and from one another your will for our lives, so that with your help we can claim the inheritance of unlimited freedom which you have willed to us through your Son. You came to our world in Jesus. Come now to us.
- Leader: God our Father does care about us. He sent his son Jesus Christ to us, and for us Jesus gave his life. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creature. Old things have passed away and all things are new. And all things are of God who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and who has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation.

Leader: Let us pray.

(A silence is kept for individual prayer.)

** PRAYER FOR THE DAY

All: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



** DEACON'S PRAYER

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Leader: For the peace that is from above and for our resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the people of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Leader: For this holy place and for those who in faith, devotion, and fear of God offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Leader: Help, save, strengthen and defend us, O God, by your grace.



** SONG OF PRAISE



** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

FIRST READING

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

A reading from the book of Acts.

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

A reading from the book of Peter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

** AL-LE-LU-LE, ALLELUIA Congregation:



Verse (Leader):

1. Our passover lamb is Christ, who banished the Angel of Death.

(Congregation sing refrain.)

2. Our God made the earth for good, and one day we all will rejoice.

(Congregation sing refrain.)

3. We sing to the glory of the Lord, who set us free from our sins.

(Congregation sing refrain.)

4. To Christ our heavenly king, give thanks for everything.

(Congregation sing refrain.)

5. He came to show us how to live in the here and now.

(Congregation sing refrain.)

6. He suffered and died for us, and one day he shall return.

(Congregation sing refrain.)

** GOSPEL

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

SERMON

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

** CREED





** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence is kept.

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**.

OFFERTORY

(While "Create in Me" is sung, offerings, including bread and wine, are presented.)

CREATE IN ME

Congregation:



** OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

** THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation:



Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation:



Leader: Give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation:



Leader: It is truly right and proper at all times and places to give our thanks to you, Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Ever living God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heav'n, we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:





** WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Presiding Minister:

Father, you are holy indeed: all your actions show your mercy and love. You made us in your image and set us over your creation. Even when we had fallen under the spell of sin, you did not abandon us but offered a covenant of blessing for all people. You rescued your chosen people, Israel, as a sign of the great deliverance to come. You sent prophets to prepare the way.

And when the time had come, you sent your Son; born of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. In word and wonder he proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life. For us he was lifted up on the cross that we might know the power of his resurrection.

And that we might no longer live for ourselves, but for him, he promised his Holy Spirit to those who believe to comfort and guide us and make us children of you, his Father.

Father, through him and in his name we ask you, fill us with his Holy Spirit so that, until he comes again, we may remember him as he commanded us:

At supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took some bread in his hands, and after giving thanks to you he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat. This is my body which is given for you."

When the meal was ended, he took a cup of wine, and after giving thanks he gave it to them and said, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for all people so that sins might be forgiven. Do this to remember me, for I will not drink the fruit of the vine again until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God."





SHARING THE MEAL

LAMB OF GOD





Presiding Minister: (after all have received bread and wine) The Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in his Grace. **All: Amen.**

** SEND US FORTH IN PEACE

Leader: Lord, we have your peace.

Congregation: ł Lord, we have your peace. 3 Θ Lord, we have your peace. Lord, we have your 0 as you said Just we have peace. heard it. as you lived we have felt it. Lord we have your Just 4a Sus your peace, Lord, as we peace. tain us in 0 -A peace with to our sep' - rate worlds. Keep this go 4b 10 worlds. as we try to love in our trou-bled us 5 6 a Send us forth in peace. 9 to show your light Send us forth in peace to be a beau - ty for ev er.

** BLESSING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation:

Leader: Bless we the Lord.

Congregation:



Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, And be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you. And give you peace, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



(Verse 1 - Music Ministers) You are not alone if you are lonely. When you feel afraid, you're not the only. We are all the same - in need of mercy, To be forgiven and be free. It's all you got to lean on, But thank God it's all you need.

(Refrain - All) And all the people said, "amen." Whoa! And all the people said, "amen." Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends; And all the people said, "amen."

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers) If you're rich or poor... well it don't matter; Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after. We're all broken, but we're all in this together. God knows we stumble and fall, And he so loved the world, He sent his Son to save us all.

(Refrain - All) And all the people said, "amen." Whoa! And all the people said, "amen." Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends; And all the people said, "amen."

(Bridge - Music Ministers / AII) Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart; Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart; Blessed are the people hungry for another start, For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God.

(Final Refrain - All) And all the people said, "amen." Whoa! And all the people said, "amen." Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends; And all the people said, "amen."

And all the people said, "amen." Whoa! And all the people said, "amen." Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends; And all the people said, "amen." And all the people said, "amen."

** DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Created, Saved & Gifted by God, we Seek, Serve & Share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, Thanks Be To God..

"W + 2" = Worship Plus Two

Make a commitment to not only worship each week but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation and seek out a way to serve our community.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Philip and James, Apostles Monday, May 1, 2023

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373 Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387 Thursday, May 4, 2023

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

NOTES:

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