

# **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## **Easter People Follow**

April 21, 2024

**Elders of the day: Michael Traver and Luis Marin**



**First Lutheran Church LCMS**

**Sunday Divine Holy Communion Services**

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## AS WE GATHER

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### GLORIA PATRI by Meineke

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end Amen. Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**    *John 12:26; Ephesians 4:15; Psalm 25:1–3, 5, 10; 106:48*

**Pastor:**        Jesus said: “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

**People:**        **Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.**

**Pastor:**        To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust.

**People:**        **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.**

**Pastor:**        Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

**People:**        **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

**FIRST READING** *Acts 4:1–12* (Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.) **Reader: Lee Ann Morin**

**4** While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, <sup>2</sup>much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup>So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>The next day their 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.”

**EPISTLE** *1 John 3:16–24* (Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.) **Reader: Michael Traver**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he 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

After I'd wandered in darkness away , Jesus my Savior I met.  
O what a tender, compassionate friend, He met the need of my heart;  
Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart!

*Chorus: Heaven came down and glory filled my soul, (filled my soul,) When at the cross the Savior made me whole; (made me whole;) My sins were washed away And my night was turned to day Heaven came down and glory filled my soul! (filled my soul!)*

2. Born of the Spirit with life from above Into God's family divine;  
Justified fully thru Calvary's love, O what a standing is mine!  
And the transaction so quickly was made, When as a sinner I came,  
Took of the offer of grace He did proffer, He saved me, O praise His dear name! *Chorus:*
3. Now I've a hope that will surely endure After the passing of time;  
I have a future in heaven for sure, There in those mansions sublime.  
And it's because of that wonderful day When at the cross believed;  
Riches eternal and blessing supernal From His precious hand I received. *Chorus:*

## **MESSAGE OF THE DAY "Do You Really Care About the Flock?"**

### **FIRST ARTICLE OF APOSTLE'S CREED**

**Pastor:** As our Good Shepherd leads us, even so our heavenly Father hears the prayers of His people. Assured of His fatherly care, let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the First Person of the Holy Trinity.

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**Pastor:** What does this mean?

**People:** I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN** LSB 717 “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

1. Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave, Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep Its own ap`pointed limits keep: O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

**PLEASE be respectful of those who wish to use our communion time on Sunday mornings as prayer time or quiet time; it's a time to reflect on the holy Supper and forgiveness that we receive from His gracious Hand.  
Thanks for your consideration of others.**

**Ushers scheduled for today are: Bill & Glenn and Bobby & Darian  
Ushers scheduled for next week are: Barb & Harriet and Bob & Judy**

## **Dessert and Discussion**

**“Guatemala, A Glimpse Into Their Lives” will be presented  
by Cinara Navarro on May 5th, 2024 at 10:30 am**



**It is a short journey sharing the services that are  
provided to assist with improving their health and  
living conditions during their Mission Trip last year.**

**Let's celebrate Mother's Day with fellowship while enjoying the All-American pastime!**

**Event: New York Yankees vs Tampa Bay Rays**

**When: Sunday, May 12, 2024**

**Time: 1:40 PM**

**Cost: \$55.00 Outfield**



**If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Luis Marin at 786-717-8855.  
(Limited seats available)**

## **On the calendar this week:**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Free Will Offering for the Gideons</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study 10:30 am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study on Monday, 10 am</b>	<b>Handbell rehearsal, Monday, 6 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study Tuesday, 10 am</b>	<b>Hot Meal Program Tuesday, 4-5 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Holy Communion, Thursday 10 am</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Trustees meet 8 am</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>LWML North Central Florida Zone Spring Rally St John's, Ocala 9 am</b>	

***Prayers: Please pray for Judith Bailey; Elaine Baker; Liz Bedford; Ron & Trish Belanger; Jayden Blackburn; Sarah Branch; Ron & Barb Burman; Jose Calvo; Alayna Capps; Apollo Chvala; Sandy Cobb; Peg Constestible; A. Colman; Sherry Cummings; Tony Davis; Sandy Dex; Derek DiPasquale; Betsy Evans; Sharon Gfell; Virginia Golec; Melissa Hebl; Michael Hewitt; Sally Hoy; Bob Iverson; Elke Ives; Sandy Jackson; Karen Kline; Deputy Andy Lahera; Jean Lewis; McCann friends and family for the death of Nancy; Jeanette Moore; Michelle Murphy; Virginia Navarro; Terri Oberlin; Harriet Oehlkers; Al Peterson; Cindy Puhmann; Maynard Quast; Roger Reguera; Jan Sanchez; Kathy Schlueter; Larry Schreffler; Robert Scott; Judi Smith; Leroy Smith; Charles Souhrada, Sr.; Betsy Sovereign; Patty Stevenson; Alyce Stewart; friends and family of the Stigler family for the death of June; Sawyor Stiles; Judy Stubstad; Dr Russell Thatcher; Michael Traver; Marvin Ufkes; Sammy Varela; Cyndi Wallace; Betty Weng; Lu & Jerry Williquette; Nancy Wilt; Emily Wordworth.***

***Pray that parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all Christian adults will accept the responsibility of caring for our young people and their minds. Also pray for our Youth Group. Pray for the teachers and the challenges that they face. Pray for the homeless and hurting. Also pray for the safety of Spring Breakers.***

***Heavenly Father, we pray for all those mentioned at the Altar Sunday; May Your gracious mercy be with them, in Jesus' name. Amen.***

***Please pray for our Elders, Deaconess and Church Officers, and our Seminaries.***

***Continue to pray for all the for all those who are distressed, cold, hungry and fearful; Pray for world conflicts, especially Isreal; Pray that our country will turn from evil and return to the LORD our God and Savior! Pray deeply, pray sincerely for His mercy, grace and loving-kindness.***

***May God move in the hearts and minds of us all to live our lives for His glory and honor. Pray for friends and family serving in the Military and Veterans, and those with long-term illnesses and those who are homebound especially Dick and Dot Cornell, Pearl Donaldson, Jim & Diana Meister, Faye Weaver. Pray for all law enforcement agents, firefighters, medical workers, and all who serve as elected officials, local, state and federal, our borders.***

***If you have a prayer request please write it in the book in the Narthex. For any additional requests during the week, please call the church office at 342-726-1637 or 1stlutheransecretary@gmail.com.***

### **Birthdays:**

**Judy Cartier, Michael McFarland, Zachary Miller (21st), Gabriella Reickson, Harrison McCabe (23rd), Anne Lawton (27th)**

### **Anniversaries:**

**Pam and Ken Clark (24th)**

2. O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs  
 amain By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy  
 people go, Protect them by Thy guarding hand From ev'ry peril  
 on the land.
3. O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;  
 O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle's  
 flight, And keep them by Thy watchful care From ev'ry peril in the  
 air.
4. O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our people shield in danger's hour;  
 From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them where-so-e'er  
 they go; Thus evermore shalt rise to Thee Glad praise from air  
 and land and sea.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is  
 good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the  
 weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord,  
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the  
 ✕ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

People: **Amen.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2

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Organist: Dana Oldenburg

***Please welcome Keith Hollenbeck of the  
 Gideons today.***

Flowers were given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of  
 Carl Koza, given by Dianna and the family.



He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **INDIVIDUAL PRAYER**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** (The Choir Sings “Morning Has Broken/Praise and Thanksgiving”)

## **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for in Jesus Christ You have shown Your saving power and Your great compassion. In amazing love, He sacrificed Himself and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His unending love leads Him to intercede for us as, aided by the Holy Spirit, He brings our cares to Your throne of grace. Grant that we may live in humility, honoring our Savior in all that we do and rejoicing that we are granted a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and praise You with thankful hearts.

**People:** Amen.

**SANCTUS** LSB 711 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” [Vs. 1 & 3]

- 1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care. In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.**
- 3. You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be; You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to You.**

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

**HYMN VERSE** LSB 710 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” [Vs 1 & 5]

**1 . The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.**

**5. Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;  
And in God’s house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 10:11–18 (Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)*

<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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Heaven Came Down, and Glory Filled My Soul”

**1. O what a wonderful, wonderful day Day I will never forget;**

**faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

**Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!**

**People: And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!**

**HYMN LSB 686 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

- 1. Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.**
- 2. Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home, Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.**
- 3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be; Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee; Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.**
- 4. Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face; Clothed then in the blood washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace! Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away; Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.**

**People: O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

# MEMBERS AND GUESTS

As you attend service this day, please be sure to sign the attendance book in each pew. It is an important way to greet & welcome guests. Members please use this to update information such as address and phone number.

## THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION — COMMUNION STATEMENT

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at First Lutheran in the confession that as He says, our Lord gives not only bread & wine but His very body & blood to eat & to drink for the forgiveness of sins & to strengthen our union with Him & with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, & set aside any refusal to forgive & love as He forgives & loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. We do this because as Lutherans we take very seriously the advice of St. Paul in I Corinthians 11:28-29, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread & drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats & drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats & drinks judgment on himself." Please note that the cups in the center of the communion tray contain white grape juice.

## SELF-EXAMINATION

- I. Do I believe that I am a sinner?
- II. Do I believe & trust in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord & Savior, redeeming me from sin, death, & the power of the devil?
- III. Do I believe that I receive forgiveness for all of my sins through Christ's true body & blood, present in the Sacrament? (real presence of Christ's body & blood)
- IV. Do I promise to amend (change) my sinful life with the help of the Holy Spirit?

If you have so examined yourself & are in full agreement with us, you are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. If you desire to learn more about these beliefs, or you are interested in learning how to become a member of First Lutheran Church, please ask

## PLEASE!!!

There are many times that we do not find out that you or a loved one has been in the hospital or has gone away until you are home. PLEASE call the church office and let us know. Even if we are not in, the phone is checked frequently and your message will be passed on.

**Elders:** Howard Warner, Mark Hanenberger, Fred Weng, Luis Marin, Michael Traver, Keith Consol, Eldon Meyer and Gus Navarro.

Do Not forget The LJC container in the Narthex. Check your dollar bills for a L, J, or C, in the Circle, place it in the little church in the Narthex. This will help pay ongoing expenses.

**PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES DURING SERVICES**