

# *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*Sunday, April 25, 2021*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**215 N. Warren St.**

**Orwigsburg, PA**

**570-366-2316**

**[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

L. Larson

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“He Is Lord” (Sing twice.)

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is  
Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess  
That Je - sus Christ is Lord.

## 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.**

## WORD

### A Reading from Acts

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] 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.” (Acts 4:5-12)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

### **A Reading from 1 John**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] 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 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. (1 John 3:16-24)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <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.” (John 10:11-18)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

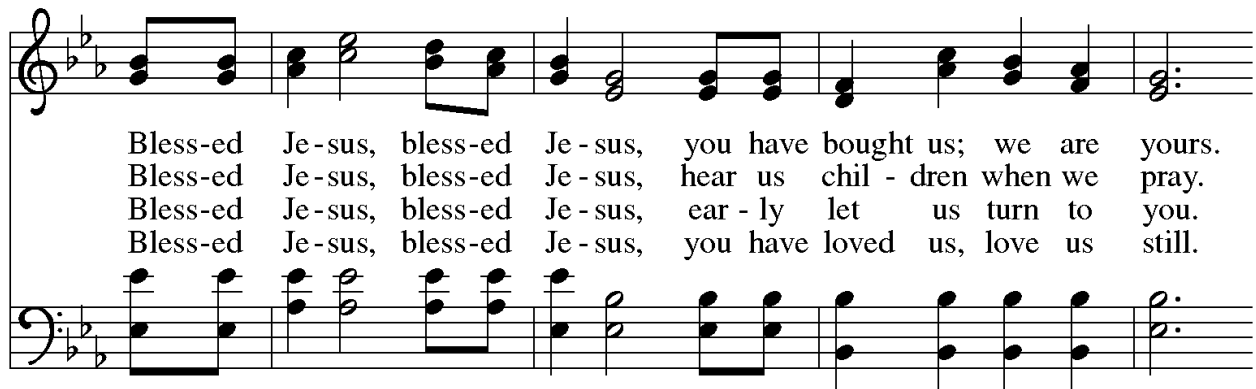
# HYMN OF THE DAY "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"



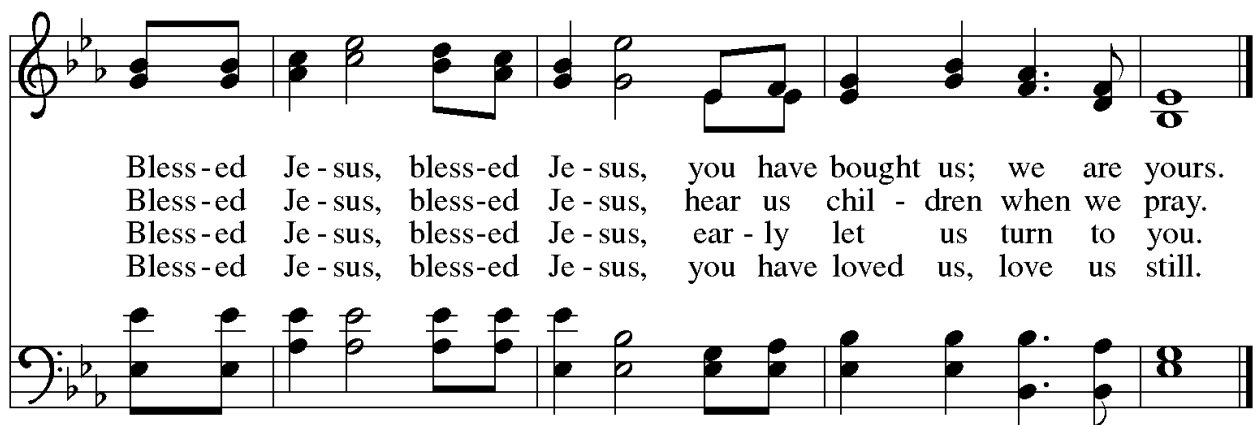
1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

## SERMON

## **THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers  
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Loving Shepherd, your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful Shepherd, grant healing and wholeness to those who are suffering (*especially everyone afflicted with COVID-19 and everyone on our prayer list*).

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, in the assurance of the resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(The Pastor concludes):* In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



**THE LORD’S PRAYER (Read in Unison)**

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.

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May Almighty God open your heart and mind,  
so that you may know and love the † risen Christ. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”  
[See back of bulletin]

**THE DISMISSAL**

Christ has risen. Death has no power over him.  
**He is risen indeed. Let us rejoice and sing his praise.**  
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Postlude in F"

V. Lubeck

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Introduction to the day:** The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd’s willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (4/25/21)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; GREETER: Amy Dewald

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Eric Eger; GREETER: Jim Spotts;

USHERS: Gloria Dierwechter and Joyce O'Rourke;

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Gloria Dierwechter;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/2/21)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Amy Dewald; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Sue Reier; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Glenda Bright;

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Gloria Dierwechter;

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

.....  
**Altar flowers** are presented in honor of Lester and Constance Teter's wedding anniversary.

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nancy and Jack Hurley's wedding, 4/22/66, by sister and family, Sue, Kurt, and Juli Schenck.  
.....

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, April 25	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Thursday, April 29	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via Zoom
Friday, April 30	1:30 PM	STiC Sojourn in Landingville, PA
Saturday, May 1	5:30 PM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Sunday, May 2	8:00 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion

# SENDING HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

# GERANIUM ORDER SHEET

Pentecost Sunday is May 23, 2021, and we plan to decorate the church with red geraniums. The deadline to order is **May 9** and the cost of each geranium is \$3.00.

Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Please detach lower portion and place your order in the basket on the table under the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Envelopes are there for you to use.

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to dedicate your flowers, please fill out the information below:

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Geraniums: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\$ amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_