



“I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”

~ John 10: 9

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 7, 2017

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 7, 2017

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.

PRELUDE: *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* – John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I saw water flowing from the threshold of the Temple.

**Wherever the river flows
everything will spring to life. Alleluia.**

On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.

Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fall.

Their fruit will serve for food,
their leaves for the healing of the nations.

**For the river of the water of life
flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
Who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise forever!

You are our light and our salvation.
From the deep waters of death
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.
Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray,
and sanctify these waters of your new creation,
that we, with all who have been born anew
by water and the Spirit,

may be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #369: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

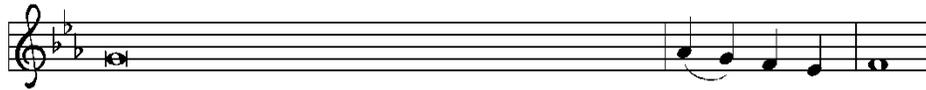
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



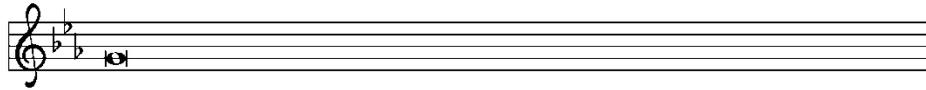
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



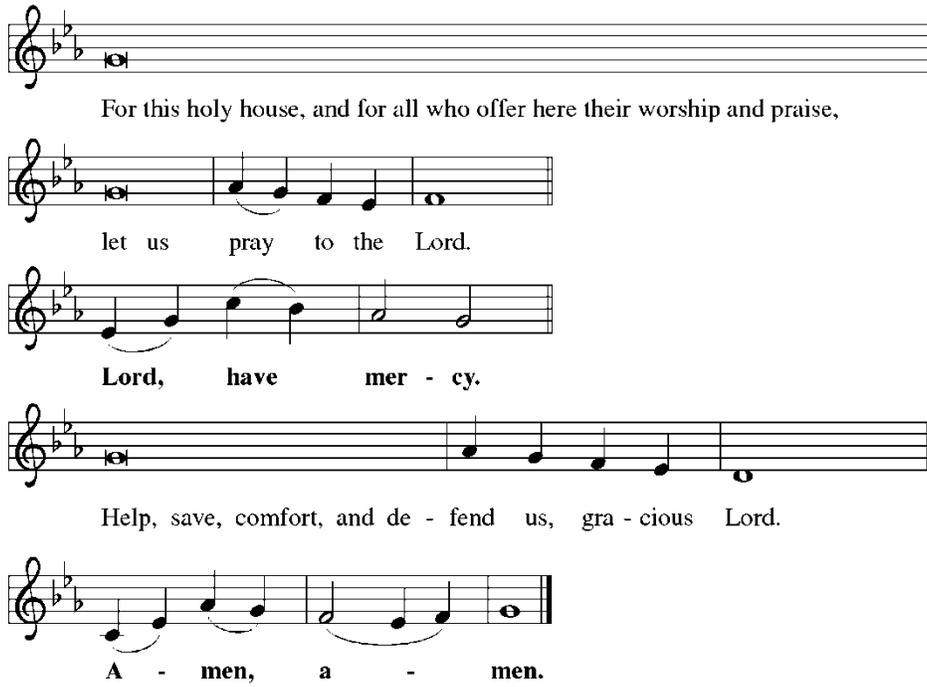
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
 A - men, a - men.

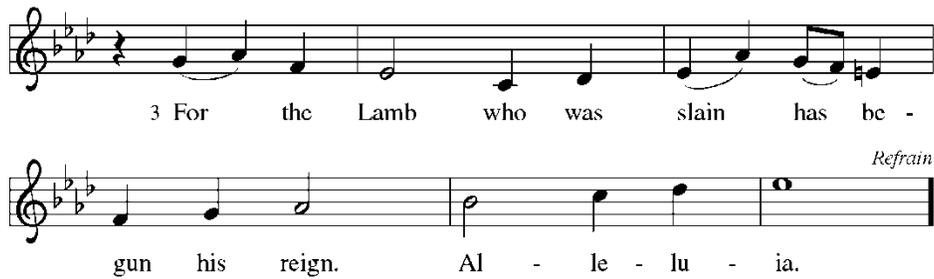
***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and
 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
 Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to
 hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42–47

Today’s reading is a description of life in the community following Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was outpoured on God’s people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #782: My Shepherd, You Supply My Need (Psalm 23)

SECOND READING: 1Peter 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 in the midst of adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
 and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Strengthen ministers of word, sacrament, and service who are called to shepherd your people. Renew your church and unite us through your Spirit. Send us out to serve our neighbors and to receive their care with gratitude. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For pastures and prairies, rivers and streams, oceans and mountains. For those who care for livestock and pets. For all animals, wild and domestic, with whom we share this world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Guide leaders into the path of peace. Uphold all who govern. Bring an end to injustice, warfare, and violence. Protect those who risk their lives to shield others from danger. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who lack safe housing and adequate food. For workers whose pay is insufficient to meet their daily needs. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick especially, Jim, Dan, Denise, Sally, Bill, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. For ushers, acolytes, and greeters. For those who clean and prepare this space for worship. Give wisdom to our councils, committees, and all who guide this congregation's ministry. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. In your goodness and mercy, bring us to the fulfillment of your promise to dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #484: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

All stand for the final refrain as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in 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:

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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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**

The table of life is spread before you.
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*

Refrain



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread. *To Refrain*

1. The bread which we break, al-le - lu - ia, is the com - mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ.
2. One bod - y are we, al-le - lu - ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

COMMUNION HYMN #789: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - ry - one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord,
bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

Amen.

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life,
make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer,
bring you to your eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #536: *God Be with You Till We Meet Again

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on ‘Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!’* – Dom Andrew Moore

The flowers this week are given by Anne & Chuck Olescyski in celebration of the 18th birthday of their grandson, Dylan.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Ruth Ann Tully

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: John Tully

Attendance Last Week: 50

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,185.02

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 54,145.31

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 52,484.55

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Valerie Cardinal

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Cardinal’s

Attendance Last Year: 65

Last Week’s General Giving: \$ 1,375.70

Last Week’s Designated Giving: \$ 63.98

YTD Receipts: \$ 57,242.21

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