

Witness



Mercy



Life Together



Season of Easter ~ Good Shepherd Sunday

The devil knows your name but calls you by your sin.
God knows your sin but calls you by your name!

-Ricardo Sanchez

Jesus knows me ~ this I love!



K. Brown "Jesus and the Lamb"

Welcome, Guests!

May our Lord bless you as you worship with us!

Information...

- A CRY ROOM is located off the welcome area.
- ACTIVITY BAGS for young children are located in the welcome area. You are welcome to use these during the service and return them afterward!
- INFO-KIOSKS: The triangular stands have specific ways to connect with WITNESS, MERCY & LIFE TOGETHER. Let us help you find ways to serve our Lord!
- DEVOTION BOOKS: *Portals of Prayer* quarterly booklets are in the pew racks. They are for you and for sharing with others!

Serving Today...

Message:

8:00 Rev. Tim Puls,
Ft. Wayne Seminary
10:45 Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Liturgist:

Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Organist:

Gail Black

Children's Chat:

Molly Poppe



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

Ringing of the Bell ~ Call to Worship

Prelude

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

Confession and Forgiveness of Sins 1 John 1:8-9; Acts 4:12; John 20:19-23

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: 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 on God's Word and for self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

Kyrie ~ Lord (have mercy)

Mark 10:47

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you! C: And also with you!

P: We 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.

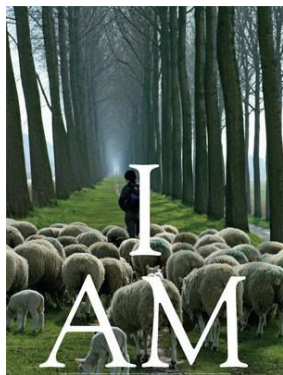
C: Amen!

This Is the Feast please turn to p. 155 in the hymnal Rev 5:12-13; 19:5-9
A hymn of praise to Christ, our Good Shepherd and our Lamb, who reigns forever!

8 & 10:45 AM

April 22, 2018

Good Shepherd Sunday



Why do we read from the book of Acts during the Easter Season?

These readings emphasize that the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the resurrection and the work of God in the world in Jesus Christ. We are His *martyria*—His witnesses! "You will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8



We must show our Christian colors if we are to be true to Jesus Christ.

~C.S. Lewis

From God's joy can nothing sever, for I am His dear lamb—He, my Shepherd ever! I am His because He gave me His own blood for my good, by His death to save me.

~Rev. P. Gerhardt, # 756 LSB

Offering also Mite* Sunday (4th Sundays) *Mite: a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered and given in faith and trust back to the Lord do "mite-y" acts in His kingdom!

Children's Chat

Offering Prayer

First Reading p. 911 ESV Acts 4:1-12

As [Peter and John] 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."

Response

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 23 in Song # 709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Epistle Reading p. 1022 ESV 1 John 3:16-24

By this we know love, that [Jesus] 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 God, and God in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Response

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia and Verses John 10:11; Psalm 79:13; Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6

P: "I AM the Good Shepherd."

C: The Good Shepherd knows His own; my Good Shepherd knows me!

P: "And I lay down my life for the sheep."

C: The Good Shepherd loves His own; my Good Shepherd loves me!

ALL: We, Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 10th chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

The Holy Gospel p. 896 ESV John 10:11-18

[Jesus says,] "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."

Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Hymn # 826 "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"

Message

8 AM "Wanted: Compassionate Kingdom Workers" Matthew 9:35-10:8 p. 814 *ESV*

10:45 AM "Talk is Cheap" 1 John 3:16-24 p. 1022 *ESV*

Statement of Faith ~ The 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.

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!

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Holy Communion ~ Preface for Easter

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them to the Lord!

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

P: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

ALL: Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;

Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,

And hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity!

Lord's Prayer

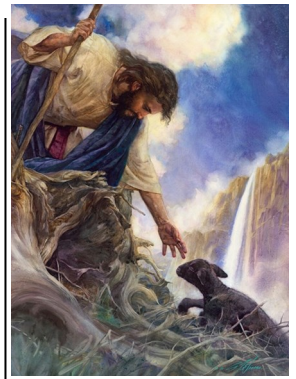
Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

The Words of Our Lord

Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25



The Good Shepherd

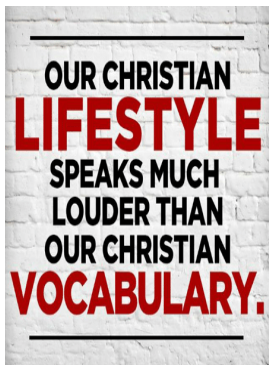
Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth to rescue us, His sheep. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him. As they hear His voice and follow Him, *they will never perish; [for] no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand.* John 10:28-29

In the same way, faith-full pastors ("pastor" means shepherd) *care for the church of God... testifying [to all] of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Acts 20:28,21

Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: *Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb!*

Revelation 7:10



Christ
Is Risen!
Alleluia!

Benediction: We leave this house of worship to be God's witnesses and share His mercy in our life together with each other, our neighbors, and the world.



LORD,
LAY SOME SOUL
UPON MY HEART
AND LOVE THAT
SOUL THROUGH ME;
AND MAY I GLADLY
DO MY PART
TO WIN THAT SOUL
FOR THEE.
AMEN!

Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **And also with you!**

As Jesus greeted His disciples the first Easter, greet one another in the name of the Lord with Peace be with you or God's peace, as a sign of reconciliation and of unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29

P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Give us Your peace. Amen!

Preparation for Holy Communion

Holy Scripture says: *One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:28,29*

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor or elder.

Distribution

You will be ushered forward for Communion. When receiving the host (bread), please extend your hand palm up.

If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.

Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

Distribution Hymns # 618:1-3 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" # 547 "The Lamb"

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction ~ God's Good-creative Word of Blessing

Hebrews 13:20-21

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through ✠ Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: **Amen!**

Hymn # 847 "Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing" *alternate tune*

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠



We are God's witnesses, sharing His mercy in our life together with each other, neighbors

The Disciple: Commanded to Believe and Love

When I was fourteen there was a cold, windy, late Sunday night in December when Dad and I picked up Mom from her job as a cook in her sister's café. When we got home Mom went to change clothes, Dad settled into his rocker and I sat on the daybed taking my shoes off. Suddenly, we heard the fire whistle. (While Dad was not a volunteer fireman, we usually responded to fires in case they needed more help.) Dad bolted from his rocker and in two long strides grabbed the telephone receiver off the hook and grasped the ringer crank with his other hand. Then he froze! Without saying a word, he slammed the receiver down, shouted at me, "Get the car out of the barn, Pete's (Dad's brother) house is on fire. I'll tell Mom where we are going and meet you out front." (The Operator received the call of the fire, sounded the whistle, told the Chief where the fire was, plugged into our line and when she heard the click of Dad picking up the receiver started talking!) We roared, horn honking, up our neighbor's driveway to get my older brother and the neighbor, and with my brother shoving me out of the driver's seat we were on our way. We were the first to arrive. The scene was chilling as the entire two stories of the farmhouse were engulfed in flames!

Thankfully, the family was not home. The baby's bedroom was on the corner of the house above where the fire started. The fire was so intense that when the structure collapsed there was not a single board above the level of the limestone foundation walls!

The family moved in with us. The next day the donations started pouring in, first food, then clothing, bedding, kitchen utensils, dishes, table ware, pots and pans, furniture - everything needed for a household. A few days later I heard Dad telling Mom, "I'm running out of storage space. I'm going to move some things from the brooder house to the hayloft because the brooder house is cleaner and more weather-tight. (We weren't brooding chicks in December!) Along with the other items were words of encouragement, promises of prayers and even some cash. Within two weeks the family rented a house and set up housekeeping.

I was awed! Oh, I knew we should help others and we always sent food when there was a death, sickness or an accident and Mom or Dad helped out with chores or housekeeping. But this was love on a magnitude that I had never witnessed before.

This was a living example of what the Epistle of John tells us, "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another." 1 John 3:23

Go - Love Others

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