



Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We have Jesus, who cares for us, protects, and rescues us. Jesus comes to us as the Good Shepherd and through the love of God we are able to demonstrate love to others by caring for them, just as God first loved us through Jesus Christ.

Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. John Carter
Cindy Olson, piano

Easter Greeting

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑ **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
- ☐ Holy people of God, given new life through the gospel of Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**



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!

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... 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.**

℣ A reading from Acts.

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

℣ The Word of the Lord.**☩ Thanks be to God.**

Refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 *to stanza 4*

death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead - ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban - quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha - tred, crown - ing me with love be - yond my pow' r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

☐ A reading from **1 John**.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Apostles Creed

A We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.***

A 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

A Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Zion Lutheran Church, Comstock Park; Prairieville Community Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. 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 up the lowly. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Comfort those who need our prayers, including *Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Cherie Clements, Emmett Crawford, Allison Domke (healthy pregnancy), Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Bill Halsted, Joe Longcor, Bill Melcher, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Carol Vos, Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. *(You may share your prayers at this time)*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you *(especially the evangelist Mark)*. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

P 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.

G **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

Truly I Believe It

John Ylvisaker
Clyde, Lexie and Kate Watson with Kim Domke



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
 When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Offering Prayer

- Let us pray . . . God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
- Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world, for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

- The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
- And also with you.**
(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Lord's Prayer

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

☐ May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ Amen.

Sending Song

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789



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.

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Jesus Loves Me

Leona Frost & Kim Domke, Bells

Abundant Care

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
April 25, 2021

Stewardship Information

Views: 190 Weekly Giving: \$4,400.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

COMMUNION OF TWO KINDS arrives for those who desire to come to the fellowship hall. Thanks to a donation of grape juice (wine was not available) Grace will be able to enjoy communion with bread and “wine”. Thanks to Joe Longcor and Vickey Argo for the donation. *Private Communion is available by appointment.* Please contact the church office **269.945.9414** or Pastor Ken directly for a time and day.

We need your plastic shopping bags! Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

Adult Forum will continue a study on the book of **Acts** today at 10:00 am. We will continue to meet in the Gathering Area for the study.

Read the New Testament in Chronological Order. Call the office to get your copy of the 2021 Daily Reading Guide.

When you are in the building, we ask you to wear a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we also ask that you maintain at least a 6-foot distance from those who are not part of your household. **Thank you for loving your neighbor.**

When do we get to return to public worship at the church building?

We will be gathering for worship when
the positivity rate is 3.0%.

Grace Lutheran Church has suspended onsite worship. Please join us for **Sunday virtual worship** at www.grace-hastings.org. We hope that you are being blessed by our worship of God each week. The council will vote at a future date to reimplement onsite worship.

The Rack

The Rack is a new community service for the Hastings area. The **free clothing** store is at the beginning of its operation. Items at this time are limited to winter outdoor wear partly because there is no director for this ministry. If you are at all interested in clothing ministry, please contact Pastor Ken.

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me."

Matthew 25:35 & 36

Assisting Minister – Ethan Scheck

Lector – Kim Domke

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Leona Frost, Mary Kuhlman, Carla Neil, Cindy Olson, Anna Scheck, Ethan Scheck, Laura Scheck, Clyde Watson, Lexie Watson, Kate Watson, Kristi Winnick

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Save the Date for Barry County Relay For Life. Mark your calendars on Saturday, August 7, 2021. The event is located at Tyden Park in Hastings from 11:00a.m. - 11:00p.m. This is a free event for all participates.

Our Undeveloped Land

Council decided that, for now, we will maintain the property, cleaning it up twice a year, and work toward improving the path so that users can meander and meditate. Thank you to members of the Team for their work and dedication to Grace!



Is there a ministry you would like to see started at Grace Lutheran Church?

Here are some ideas that are being considered listed below. Maybe you could add a couple other ideas. Please share your ideas with a Council member or write them down and drop them off at the church office.

Host a community garden (we are talking with Emmanuel Episcopal about this already)	Build a picnic pavilion for outdoor gatherings and meals	Return to going on mission trips
Have the parking lot repaved and paid for	Hold quarterly dinners for the neighborhood	Enhance the lighting in the sanctuary
Reduce our carbon footprint by installing solar panels on our roof	Cultivate or hire a youth ministry leader (we've had success with this in the past)	Start a mentorship program between youth and older adults
Hold regular forums on diversity and inclusiveness	Collaborate with other Lutheran and non-Lutheran congregations in youth ministry	Rebuild / strengthen relationships within the congregation

Food Pantry

The Hastings Food Pantry is seeing an increase in clientele. As many jobs have been lost because of the new restrictions but in place with COVID 19 the food pantry believes there will be another rise in traffic to the pantry. Needs are:

Prayer

Chunky & Progressive Soups

Saltine Crackers

Boxes or packets of Beef or Chicken Rice

Cakes and Frosting

Brownies

Cans of Pineapple



*Let us experience the
Good Shepherd*