

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ April 21, 2024

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.

Opening Hymn #782 - *Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings*

Confession and Absolution Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

I am the good | shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

The LORD is my | shepherd;*

I | shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*

He leads me beside still | waters.

He re- | stores my soul.*

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;*

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;*

you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,*

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I am the good | shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast) Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

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.

First Reading Page 156

Acts 4:1-12

¹ As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the 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 being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Gradual Page 156

adapt. From Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands,*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading Page 156

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But 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? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And 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. ²⁴Whoever keeps his

commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 156

Holy Gospel..... Page 157

John 10:11-18

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He 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. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No 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.”

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day..... #709 – *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

The Sermon Believe In Love ~ 1 John 3: 16-24

Check out Pastor Bogs’ blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Today is traditionally known as _____ .

First

God is _____ .

God loves _____ .

God knows _____ .

God loves _____ .

God Knows

We tend to be _____ .

God knows _____ .

Our confidence, then, is _____ .

With confidence we pray _____ .

God’ Command

We think in terms of _____ .

Of God’s command, _____ .

As God loves us _____ .

God is the prime mover _____ .

What Does This Mean?

God does _____ .

God loves first and then _____ .

John reminds us _____ .

As this reciprocal circle _____ .

The world will know _____ .

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

CreedPage 158

Offering & Prayer of the Church Page 159

Offertory Page 159

Our First Fruits and Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God’s love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Sacrament* ✠ ✠ ✠

Preface Page 160

It is truly good, right, and salutary 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 Paschal 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 Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and 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 saying:

Sanctus & Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 161

Lord’s Prayer & The Words of Our Lord Page 162

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini. Page 162

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei Page 163

Distribution Page 164

Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

- Distribution Hymns #524 – *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*
- #683 - *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*
- #525 - *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
- #781 - *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

Post-Communion Canticle (Thank the Lord)..... Page 164

Post-Communion Collect & Benediction..... Page 165/166

Closing Hymn #918 - *Guide Me, O Though Great Redeemer*