

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 30, 2023

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 #473 - Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free
Confession and Absolution Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ **Matins** ✠ ✠ ✠
Page 219

Common Antiphon and Venite Page 220
Readings from Holy Scripture. Page 221

First Reading. Acts 2:42-47
⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

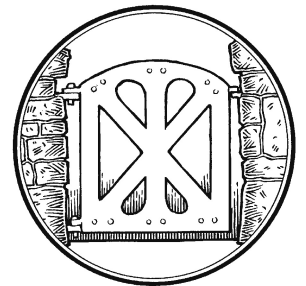
Epistle Reading 1 Peter 2:19-25
¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not

revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Choral Anthem

Holy Gospel John 10:1-10
¹[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.

²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.



⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Responsory. Page 221

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #709 - The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Mission Message

Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Canticle (Te Deum)..... Page 223

First Fruits, Tithes, and Offerings.....Page 227

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.

Prayers..... Page 227

Offertory.....Page 159

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

Preface..... Page 161

It is truly meet, 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 Page 161

Lord's Prayer Page 162

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini..... Page 162

Angus Dei Page 163

Distribution..... Page 169

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 #685 – *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

#740 – *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*

#735 - *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

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

Post-Communion Collect..... Page 166

Benediction..... Page 166

Closing Hymn..... #477 - *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

~Save the Date~



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield
 123rd Annual
 Picnic Sunday
 May 21, 2023

Bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.
 We will have hamburgers & hot dogs and lots of fun & fellowship!
 Sign up in the Narthex today!

A freewill offering will available to support our S.M.A.R.T. Youth Group going to the Higher Things Youth Gathering in San Antonio.