SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 25, 2021

April 25, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

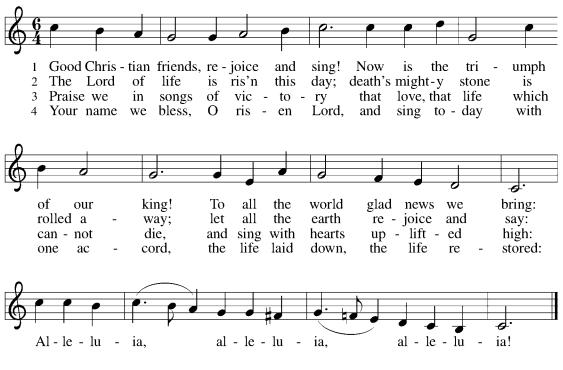
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG (verses 1 & 4) Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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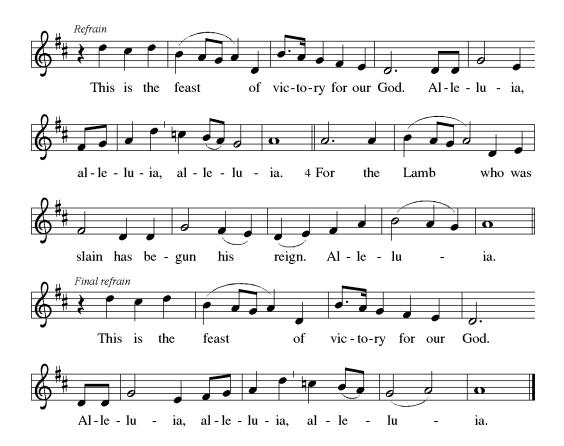
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GREETING

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





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.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

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.**

PSALM: Psalm 23

(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹The LORD| is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.
²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me be- | side still waters.
³You restore my | soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1 John.

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.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

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GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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 Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY (verses 1 & 4)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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Please stand if you are able.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

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.

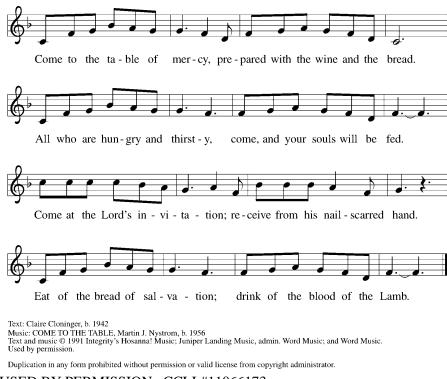
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Please respond.*) *P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY

Come to the Table



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OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

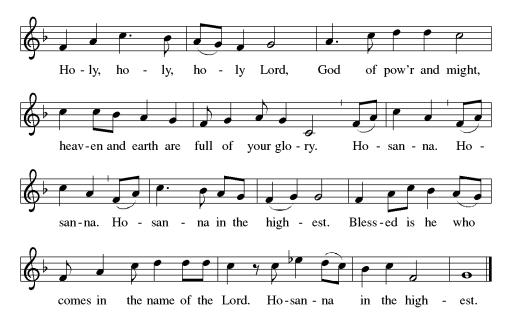
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance and keeping your mask on. Move your mask to eat the bread and drink the wine. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat with your mask on.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG (verses 1 & 4) Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

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

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Bill Nienstedt
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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Frances Reichard
Acolyte	Sam Nienstedt
Lector	Rich McEntire
Securing Offering	Edna Harris & Doug Mummert
Communion Set-Up	-
Communion Clean-Up	Sam & Becky Mull
Bread Cubes	•
Communion Assist	
Attendance last Sunday	-
•	

Stewardship Thought - Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2021 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." -- 1 John 3:18

Care of God's good creation is love in truth and action. Ponder how you might better exhibit this love through your care of our planet and all that God has created. What one small step might you take this week?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of John (Bud) & Esther Reichard given by their children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

2021 Altar Flowers Chart—Kimberly will <u>not</u> be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! Flowers will now be **purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg**. Please note the price will change to **\$35**. For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

Prayer requests for the following persons *Joe Wolfinger*, *Darrell Veilleux*, *Linda Berberich*, *Isabel Overcash*, *Catherine Plummer*, *Tom Black*, *Phyllis Foreman*, *Mary Ellen Bower*, *April Hughes*, *Larry Lehman*, *Jennifer Haughie*, *Bud Armstrong*, *Gertie Reichard*, *Joyce Wildeson*, *Manny Negron*, *Jerry and Peggy Tyson*, *Dee Dee Fox*, *Jody Swartz*, *Quentin*, *Linda Small Naus*, *Barbara Socks*, *Denise Bowen*, *Patsy Wagner*, *Anne English*, *Millie Kulkusky*, *Jackson*, *Bonnie Hudson*. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

<u>Michael's BBQ Chicken Fundraiser</u> - Saturday, May 15th, starting at 10:30am. Drive through service until sold out. Cost is \$12.00/dinner and includes ½ chicken, baked beans, applesauce, and a Martin's roll. The event will take place in front of Franklin Hardware & Pet Store, 1975 Philadelphia Ave, Chambersburg. Sponsored by the SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary. For pre-orders, see your congregation's auxiliary representative or call 717-860-7544.

The **annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive** will take place during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. Because of your generous support, in the past the Auxiliary was able to make donations to SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice, SpiriTrust Lutheran LIFE, SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services, as well as The Inn Endowment Fund at The Village at Luther Ridge and many other important programs and services. If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact Becky Pecha, your congregational representative.

Contact Frances Reichard for all **reservations for the rental of the gym**. (717) 263-1705 or (717) 360-5243.

Willie & Karin Huber donated some items to the church. Some of the items will be for sale. The Sundays of May 2 and May 9 have been set aside for any member who may have interest in the items before we offer them at a yard sale.

Relay for Life - Help support our team by purchasing a duck for the Annual Duck Derby! One duck is \$5.00 or you can purchase a Quack Pack (6 ducks) for \$25.00. Please see Becky Mull for questions and to purchase your ticket.

Thank you for your support!

If you would like to join our Relay for Life team and do not have a computer to register with our team you may call 1-800-227-2345 and ACS will help you sign up!

April is Paper Drive Month: Social Ministry is collecting paper products (towels, toilet paper, napkins, hygiene products, etc.) for the Maranatha Food Pantry during April. Please drop your donations in the Sunday school room. These items will help those in need in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

2021 Summer Camp information is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex for those who are interested.

Power Packs: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. See Pastor Bill if you would like to give a monetary donation.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

APRIL 25, 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



As Jesus shepherds us, we shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Genesis 49:22-28	Jacob blesses his sons
Thursday	Mark 6:30-44	Jesus the compassionate shepherd
Friday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God the true shepherd
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:11** (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God, we thank you for pursuing us with your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, as a shepherd you provide us with daily food; give us the faith and love to care that others have daily food on their tables, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd pursue you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does a shepherd do?
- What does Jesus do to shepherd us?
- How can we shepherd fellow Christians in the faith and in daily life?

HYMN OF THE WEEK Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



DEVOTIONS Read: 1 John 3:16-24.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. John 10 and Psalm 23 give clear attention to this shepherd theme. However, so does 1 John 3. Just as Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11), so we as brothers and sisters who follow Jesus are to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16). We lay down our lives—we shepherd one another—by loving one another "in truth and action"—not just words (v. 18). We, as fellow shepherds, abide in the Good Shepherd by believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another with our whole being. As we give thanks for Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we also give thanks that we are surrounded by a community of faith that shepherds one another to believe in Jesus Christ and to lay down our lives for one another. Why is it important that Christians not only care for the needs of the world but also care for each other as followers of Jesus Christ?

Pray: Almighty and living God, strengthen us in faith and love to shepherd one another to live with hope and good courage through Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

SERVICE

Be a servant this week by shepherding someone. Make a visit and listen to the person. Read Psalm 23 together. Talk about what it means to have Jesus as our shepherd and close with the Lord's Prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. There will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16) If there are children in your home, play "Follow the Leader." Blindfold the followers and have the leader guide them by using only their voice. Think about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.

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