

**Parish Three Lutheran Churches  
9:00 AM St. John's, Woden, IA**



“I am the  
good  
shepherd.”

John 10:11

**April 21, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Pastor John Heille**

Today's introduction:

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.

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## PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

Nancy Beenken, Organist

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EASTER PROCLAMATION (spoken boldly)

P: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

**C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: The angel spoke to the disciples, "Don't be alarmed," he said.

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified. He is risen."

Alleluia!

**C: Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia!**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

**C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

**ELW # 789**

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12

*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.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today

because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let 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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

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

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM Psalm 23** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though 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.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**HYMN**

*"Have No Fear, Little Flock"*

**ELW # 764**

**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.*

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

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

<sup>23</sup>And 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. <sup>24</sup>All 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*"Alleluia..."*

**ELW p. 142**

## **GOSPEL John 10:11-18**

Response before the Gospel

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

Response after the Gospel

All: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

*(Please be seated)*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN**

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

**ELW # 502**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **EASTER CREED and BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE**

P: Here is water, the place where your life in the Lord began.

Once you were no people; now you are God's people.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: Yes, 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.**

P: Do you renounce the devil and all evil works and ways?

Do you renounce your old, dead life?

**C: Yes, for once we were dead in our sins, but now we are alive in Christ Jesus!**

P: Is it your desire to live as an Easter alleluia?

**C: We will continue to celebrate the presence of God's love in our lives.**

**We will continue to grow with each other in Christ, our risen Lord.**

**We will live as Easter alleluias!**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

**ELW # 186**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ELW p. 145**

**BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**SENDING HYMN**

*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"*

**ELW # 619 vs 1,2,7,8**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Welcome to everyone worshipping today:** those attending in person, those attending the Care Center live-stream and anyone joining YouTube Iowa Lutherans. And a big Thank You to all those participating in worship services: organists, readers, live-streamers, ushers, communion preparers and servers, etc.

### **Prayer Concerns**

We offer prayers of healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: Russ Bruns, all active military, our folks in the nursing homes, those suffering from disasters, and our Bishops Eaton & Halaas.

**Pastor John's** contact information: his cell phone is (507)-399-3119 and his email is [unlikelyj@icloud.com](mailto:unlikelyj@icloud.com). His normal office hours are:

Mondays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Immanuel office

Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM St. John's office

Wednesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Good Hope office

### **THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE**

4/22/2024	2:00 PM	May newsletter deadline
4/22/2024	6:30 PM	Music Committee @ Immanuel
4/23/2024	1:00 PM	Quilting @ St. John's
4/24/2024	3:00 PM	Worship at Summit House in Britt
4/24/2024	6:00 PM	WOW @ St. John's
4/28/2024	9:00 AM	Worship @ Immanuel w/Holy Communion

### **PARISH THREE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*The Titonka Care Center Annual Meeting** will be held Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Titonka Care Center. All are invited to join them for 2023 Year in Review, Employee Service Awards, Election of Board Member, Old and New Business. Refreshments will be served.

Titonka Care Center Board of Directors are: Paul Larsen, Laura Phelps, Sherri Post, Brian Bartelt, Maddie Post



**\*\*Thank you for your generosity!** Parish Three's donations totaled \$2,403.59 for ELCA World Hunger (God's Global Barnyard).

**\*\*Thank You:** Elsie Planz extends a thank-you to everyone who remembered her on her birthday. Your greetings brightened her special day.

**\*\*Thank you for your support for the Church of the Damascus Road (CODR),** the prison ministry in the men's Fort Dodge Prison. Many boxes and bags of clothing and towels will soon be delivered to the half-way house.

**\*\*A First Communion Workshop** for kids and a parent/other adult will be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at Good Hope. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. First Communion is open to children when their parents believe they are ready. Please let Pastor John know ASAP if your child will be attending.

**\*\*Immanuel 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration T-shirts and RSVPs:** Orders for Immanuel's 125<sup>th</sup> T-shirt are being taken now. They will only be available if ordered and paid in advance. Order forms are online ([www.parish3.com](http://www.parish3.com)) and at the rear of Immanuel. An **RSVP** letter for the Saturday evening meal was mailed this week; please respond by June 1 using any of the means described in the letter.

**\*\*Immanuel will be collecting memorabilia** to display at the upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> celebration. Start gathering your things and watch for a Sunday to bring them. All items will be returned; make sure your name is on them to ensure that they are returned.

## Earth Day - April 22, 2024



Caring for God's Creation

