



April 30, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Easter, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby
5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

Sunday, April 30th 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A
Reverend Maggie Westaby

WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, to our Shepherd, so that God's grace and mercy may restore our souls.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal God,

We confess that we have not always followed Christ's example. We have gone astray and lost our way. We have wandered onto paths of our own desire. Open our hearts to the comfort of your rod and staff. Lead us back into your fold, and guard our souls, in Jesus' name. Amen.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ all your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit, and may Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Good Shepherd,

You call us by name, and we know your voice. Open the gate for us, that we may come and go freely, have life, and have it abundantly. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your par - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
 Music: ABBOTT'S LEECH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
 Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1942, rev. 1979 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 06038. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

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

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.

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

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



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.

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

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 INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. Let us give generously from ourselves as a way of praising God and giving to those in need.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your mission. May all creation be joined together as one in your love. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

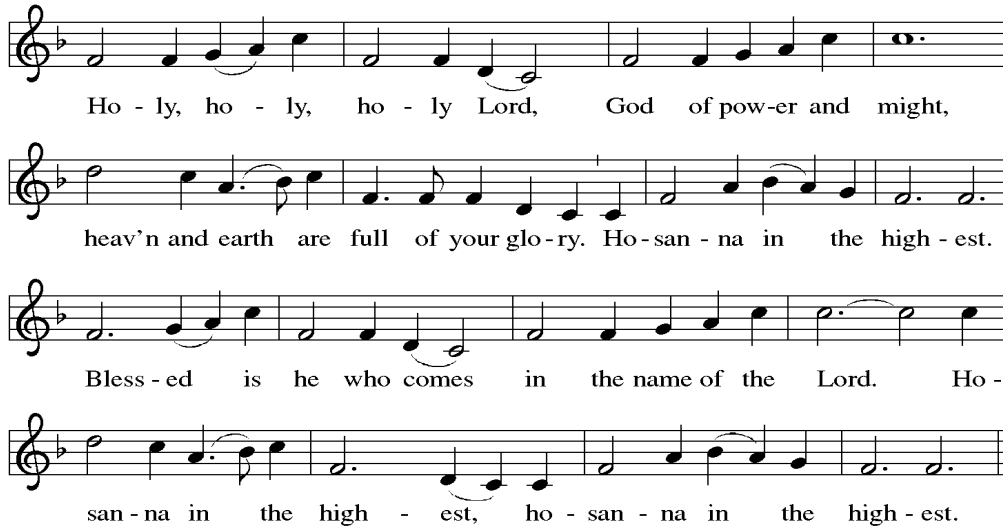
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Taste and see that God is good.

COMMUNION HYMNS

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

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.

Come, Let Us Eat



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.
Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

In you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God who calls us by name
Lead you out to green pastures
And lead you in to the safety of Christ's fold.
In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Have No Fear, Little Flock (ELW 764)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Welcome to all! With the psalmist we proclaim, "You prepare a table before me ... my cup overflows" (Psalm 23:5, NRSV). Welcome to worship as we praise and thank the Lord our Shepherd.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, as you lead, help me know your voice better each day and eagerly follow you.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Maggie's Book Club. Monday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* By Mitch Albom.

Sunday June 22, 2023 Marathon County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a free event on keeping worship spaces safe. There is a flyer in the narthex for more information, or you can talk to Pastor Maggie if you are interested. It will be at Mount Olive Lutheran Church from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John April 30– May 7

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

May 2

8:30 a.m. Quilting

May 7

9:00 a.m. Worship & New Member Welcome Service
10:15 a.m. Sunday School