

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

April 21, 2024: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Paul Thompson

Organist: Pat Nelson

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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG (to be selected)

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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

A reading from Acts, chapter 4:

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."

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

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

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

⁴**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.**

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

⁶**Surely 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

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.

A reading from 1st John, chapter 3:

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.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (pg 142 ELW)

*Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

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.

The holy gospel according to John, chapter 10.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.

SERMON ... OR HYMN-SING TIME

HYMN OF DAY (*to be selected*)

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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who are grieving or those who are living with illnesses (*especially Pastor Paul Thompson, Mary, Jerry, Kaysie, Scott, Cody, Alan, Jean, Dawn, Debra, Keith, Dalton, Sylvia, Heidi, and John*). Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING / OFFERTORY (ELW p. 190)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,*

*and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

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.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now
and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG (*to be selected*)

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Let Christ shine!
Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook (in narthex).
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

EAST 9:00 am worship / *coffee always after church*

BOTH: 10:00 am at West – JAM Sunday school

WEST 11:00 am worship / *West coffee at 10am*

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join **Altar Guild**

Altar Guild: Apr. – Darlene Myhre & Sonya Mansfield

Deacon: Apr. – Jane Williams

Reader/Helper: Apr. 21 – Shannon Meier

East Acolytes: If none listed, then ushers are covering

EAST - SUNDAY COFFEE HOURS SERVED BY:

3rd Sunday of the month – *OPEN - contact Marylin*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION: Pastor Paul is currently hospitalized – so if you have emergency pastoral needs, please call your church council members (*those phone numbers are listed at the end of the bulletin in the section for Church Contact Information*).

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR WOMEN AT ST. JOHN'S KASSON

All East & West women are invited to St. John's fellowship room at 7:00 pm this Thursday, April 25, for their annual birthday party! *Pastor Deborah will introduce us to a bit of Tanzania.*

EAST WELCA DATES - APRIL

23 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

30 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

MAY: Service 11:00

7 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

6:00PM Council Meeting at East

11 10:00 WELCA Meeting

12 Mother's Day Sunday Dinner

14 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

19 East Graduation Recognition Pentecost Sunday

21 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

26 Holy Trinity Sunday

28 10:00 Quilting/Sack Lunch

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

Deadline for bulletin information – Wednesdays by 7:30 pm.

TODAY	9:00 am	East worship-coffee after service
	10:00 am	Both-JAM at West church
	10:00 am	<u>West Senior Recognition Coffee</u>
	11:00 am	West worship (<i>Bible for seniors</i>)
	7:00 pm	<u>Deadline to submit newsletter info</u>
Apr. 23 (Tue.):	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
Apr. 24 (Wed.):	7:00 pm	Both confirmation at West (<i>verify</i>)
	7:00 pm	Women's Birthday Party at St. John's Kasson... in fellowship hall (<i>all West & East women invited</i>)
Sun. 04/28	9:00 am	East worship/ <u>communion</u> , with East coffee always after the service
	10:00 am	Both-JAM at West church West coffee
	11:00 am	West worship/ <u>communion</u>

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Apr. 30 (Tue.): >>>> NEWSLETTER DAY at office
(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40-collate)

10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch

MAY 2024

BOTH CHURCHES have communion on 1st & 4th Sundays

WEST 9:00 am worship / West coffee at 10am

BOTH: 10:00 am at West – JAM Sunday school

EAST 11:00 am worship / East coffee after church

May 2 (Thu.): NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 5 (Sun.): 9:00 am West worship/communion, with
10:00 am Both-JAM at West church
West coffee
11:00 am East worship/communion, with
East coffee always after the service

May 7 (Tue.): 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch

	6:00 pm	<u>EAST church council meeting</u>
May 8 (Wed.)	1:00 pm	<u>West WELCA meeting, Katie Masching is host (study TBD)</u>
May 11 (Sat.):	10:00 am	<u>East WELCA meeting at church</u>
	>>>>	<u>SEMN Synod Assembly-at the MANKATO Mayo Clinic Event Center (9:00 am-5:30pm)</u>
May 12 (Sun.):		<u>Happy Mother's Day!</u>
	9:00 am	West worship
	10:00 am	Both-JAM at West church West coffee
	11:00 am	East worship - then after church, <u>EAST has a Mother's Day Lunch</u>
	7:00 pm	<u>WEST church council meeting</u>
May 14 (Tue.):	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
May 19 (Sun.):	9:00 am	West worship
	10:00 am	Both-JAM at West (<i>last day</i>) West coffee
	11:00 am	East worship - then after church, <u>EAST Graduate Recognition coffee</u>

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Pastor Paul Thompson, Mary Madson, Jerry Nelson, Kaysie Peterson, Scott Kittleson (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Cody Hegna, Alan Hovey, Jean (*Sandy Dahle's daughter*), Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Dalton Mansfield (*-serving in our military*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

ATTENTION: Pastor Paul is currently hospitalized – **so if you have emergency pastoral needs, please call your church council members** (*those phone numbers are listed below*).

SECRETARY: Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to office*)

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

Send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am-Noon

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President, Bruce Peterson: 507-254-1822

Gary Kearns: 507-206-3158 or 507- 254-5285

Bryan DeCook: 507-208-1590

EAST: VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from Pastor Paul or from another member, please contact an East deacon: Jane Williams: 507-271-2272.