



*“I am the
good shepherd.”*

J O H N 1 0 : 1 1

Epiphany Lutheran Church

6606 Maplecrest Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46835
(260) 485-5122
www.epiphanyfw.com

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 – 8:00 & 10:15 am
Worship on Sundays: 8:00 & 10:15 am
Monday Night Worship: 7:00 pm
Richard L. Hartman - Pastor

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Lutheran Book of Worship

Setting Two (*green hymnal*)

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

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 sister or brother in need.

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PRELUDE

You are invited to let this prelude turn your heart to the Lord and prepare you to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Open our lips, and our mouth shall declare your praise.

Open our hearts, and we will be given new life.

Open our souls, and our light will shine before others to give You glory.

Let us confess our sins before God and one another so that we may be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you, O God, and one another, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have not done. Your Son taught us to "love our neighbor as ourselves," and we have only been concerned about ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, and bring us to new life in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his boundless mercy, has willingly sacrificed his Son for us, and for his sake forgives us all of 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.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN 210 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" Green Hymnal 1-4

At the Lamb's high feast we sing, Praise to our victorious king.

Who has washed us in the tide, Flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we him, whose love divine, Gives his sacred blood for wine.

Gives his body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword.

Israel's hosts triumphant go, Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread.

With sincerity and love, Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE (*sing*)

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy

A: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C: Amen

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*)

O Lord Jesus 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.

FIRST LESSON 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 is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 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, 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. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

PSALM 23 (*unison*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I 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; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SECOND LESSON 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.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

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. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter, beginning with the 11th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF THE DAY 476 "Have No Fear, Little Flock" Green Hymnal

Have no fear little flock, have no fear little flock.

For the Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom.

Have no fear little flock.

Have good cheer little flock, have good cheer little flock.
For the Father will keep you in his love forever.
Have good cheer little flock.

Praise the Lord high above, praise the Lord high above.
For he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you.
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God, thankful hearts raise to God.
For he stays close beside you, in all things works with you.
Thankful hearts raise to God!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made
man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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,
listening 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 live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. 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 love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins more deeply. We pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family...*Sarah, Jim, Vera, Don, Barb, Karen, Sandi, Sara, George, Richard* and for those whom we now name from our hearts... God of grace, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith 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**

PEACE

P: Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: and also with you

You are invited to greet one another with the "Peace of the Lord" or similar words.



OFFERINGS can be mailed, dropped off at church or sent through our website at www.epiphanyfw.com.
If you are worshipping in person please *place offering in basket on baptismal font.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Merciful God,

C: it would have been enough for you to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But in this meal, by your promise, you also give us yourself. Use what we have gathered here in feeding the hungry world with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: we lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary ...We praise your name and join their unending hymn: C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

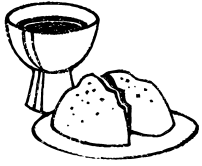
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



Everyone is welcome to come to the Lord's Table!
*Those baptized who believe in the true presence of Christ
in the bread and wine are welcome to receive the elements.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. We pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN 310 *"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"* Green Hymnal 5-8

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.

You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall.

You have opened paradise, And your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy.

From sin's pow'r, Lord set us free, Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live.

Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Pastor

Organist/Pianist

Assistant

Lector/Communion Assistant 8:00

Lector 10:15

Communion Assistant 10:15

Richard Hartman

Amanda Pickett

Jim Davis

Cheryl Ralston

Nina Haag

Cathy Rumfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Outreach - Collecting for the Health kits and Layette. Items needed now:
Bath towels, hand towels, baby blankets (no Fleece), receiving blankets, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers.

Layette items/watch garage sales - baby clothes 6 months to 2T
Shirts long and short sleeved, pants, socks, sleepers no feet, gowns, hats, receiving blankets, mild bar soap and baby blankets.

Quilt items/watch garage sales - for blankets, sheets, mattress pads that we can use as middles and backs.

Ushers/Greeters - At the last Congregational meeting we talked about bringing back this function for Epiphany. I have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board . We did have some in place for Palm Sunday and Easter.

ALTER FLOWERS There are lots of Sunday's available for flowers
June 30th, July 14th, August 18th, September 1st, 22nd and 29th, November 3rd, 10th and 24th!

Military Outreach - Current items needed – Slim Jim's,
Beef Jerky (1.25 oz.) Gum, mints, chewy granola bars, power bars, drink mixes, individual servings of coffee, flavored drinks, Emergen-C

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 4-21	8:00am & 10:15am 8:45 am 12:00- 5:00pm	Worship Council Budget Meeting <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Worship
WEDNESDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
SATURDAY	11:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm - 8:00 pm	<i>Zo Baptist prayer meeting/undercroft</i> <i>Zo Baptist Worship</i>
SUNDAY 4-28	8:00am & 10:15am 12:00- 5:00pm	Worship <i>Zo Baptist Worship and Sunday School</i>



Rachael Pickett - April 26th!

Amanda Pickett - April 27th!