

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pastor K. Russell Crouthamel

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If remaining in your car, please tune to 99.3 FM

*Please take time during the prelude to prepare your heart and mind for worship
Indicates Congregational Standing

PRELUDE

Lord God, Heavenly King

Francois Couperin

WELCOME

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, Risen Christ
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

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v.1: Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

v.2: The Lord of life is risen this day, death's mighty stone is rolled away; let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

v.3: Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

v.4: Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord, the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***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.

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.

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.

(please join in reading the psalm responsively)

PSALM: Psalm 23

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

**²The 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.

**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

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: John 10: 11-18**

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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.

SERMON

Pastor Russ Crouthamel

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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v.1: The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

v.2: Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth; and where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

v.3: Perverse and foolish oft I stayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

v.4: In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee dear Lord beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

v.5: Thou spreadst a table in my sight, thine unction grace bestoweth; and oh what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

v.6: And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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 THE PEOPLE

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Fill leaders with the desire to serve the needs of all with equity and respect. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. We especially pray for **Buddy, Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Charlie, Marie, David, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny, June, Mary Jane, and Charlene.** Move us with your Spirit, so that we joyfully help those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, help us to understand the concerns of others. Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit so we heed your call to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Awake My Heart With Gladness

Robert A. Hobby

***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 Lord. God of power and might. Heaven 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**

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**

Pastor: 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 DISTRIBUTION

Music during distribution: *The Lord's My Shepherd* arr. Mark Sedio

POST-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.

***BENEDICTION**

P: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us into children of God through the resurrection of God's Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God's blessing.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

C: Amen.

P: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

C: Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

Go My Children, with My Blessing

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v.1: Go my children with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children with my blessing, you are my own.

v.2: Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

v.3: Go my children fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

DISMISSAL:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Robert A. Hobby

We welcome everyone to worship on this Fourth Sunday of Easter. Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians. If you would like more information on baptism, Pastor Russ would love to speak with you!

It is our plan to hold worship outdoors in the courtyard and/or parking lot going forward. It is our hope we become adept at making the outdoor services go smoothly. It is our wish that it won't be too long before we can gather indoors again. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

In order to ensure the least possible risk of covid transmission during these courtyard gatherings, we ask that singing only be done by the song leader. Please maintain a safe distance from each other. Masks are required. Thank you for helping us all stay safe and well!

If we were worshipping indoors, the altar flowers would be presented in memory of Shirley by Paul Cressman.

The bulletins are presented by the Jeff Sell family.

COURTYARD OFFICE HOURS

Due to a schedule change, Pastor Russ will not be holding courtyard office hours this Monday. They will take place on Tuesday from 1 – 3PM.

No appointments are necessary for the courtyard office hours. Just come, say hello, chat for awhile and get to know Pastor Russ. He would like to meet you!

If you would like, this can also be a time to pray, discuss scripture and take Holy Communion.

It is Pastor Russ' plan to hold these courtyard hours through the summer and into fall. Stop by. Say hello.

MEETINGS COMING UP:

- April 26th Cemetery Committee – 6:30 PM
- Church Council – 7:00 PM
- April 27th Courtyard Office Hours – 1 to 3 PM
- April 28th Youth Outreach Meeting – 6:30 PM

CEMETERY NEWS

The cemetery has an open position for part-time work. If you are interested, please contact Charlie Schultz at 610-462-8284 or call the church office.

The Cemetery Committee would like to remind you that planting is not allowed in the cemetery. If you have planted flowers, please arrange to remove them. Plantings make it difficult for cemetery upkeep. Thanks for your help with this.

OTHER NEWS

The link for viewing our live service over the internet is on our website. For listening to the service from our parking lot, please tune your car radio to 99.3 FM.

The Open Link is holding a fundraiser – Planting Hope 2021.

This is an auction. If you go to their website, you will find more information about the auction. You will also be able to register and preview the items being auctioned.

As you all probably know, Charlene Wilson was severely injured in an automobile accident back in March. I have recently been informed that she has been moved to the Lehigh Valley Hospital in Muhlenberg for continued recuperation and therapy. If you would like to send her a note or card, her current address is:

Charlene Wilson
LVH – Muhlenberg, Room 3010
2545 Schoenersville Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017

CALLING ALL COOKS

Caring Ministries continues to organize meals for Charlie and his brother Tom. They are enjoying the delicious dinners you are providing! The tests and treatments for Charlie are continuing. If you would like to contribute a meal, please contact Harriet Rapine at hmrp11@gmail.com or call her at 215-679-8844. I am told the menu is wide open! They like all kinds of dishes.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee recently held a virtual Pizza Night. (Isn't technology great!!) Their next activity is being planned for June 11th. They are working on holding a combined Arts & Craft and Ice Cream Social event. More information on this will be available soon. Mark your calendars – it sure sounds like fun!

WITH SADNESS

I must tell you that Barbara Lutz passed away on April 20th. Arrangements are being handled by Scanlin Funeral Home in Chalfont. Her funeral service will take place on Monday, April 26th. Family visitation is at 10AM with a memorial service at 11AM led by Pastor Russ. Interment will follow at the Whitemarsh Memorial Park in Ambler. I know many of you knew Barbara. She was President of WELCA for 14 years and led the Adult Bible Class. The address for the Scanlin Funeral Home is 175 E. Butler Ave., Chalfont, PA.

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Buddy Allen, Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Marilyn Donis, Randy Dotter, Andrew Erb, Renae Fosbenner, Charlie Greulich, Marie Grubb, David Haines, Harold Hieter, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Steve Law, Barbara Lehmann, Pat Matthews, Kenneth Miller, Deb Mullen, Barbara Opachinski, Lenny Rafalko, June Reigner, Mary Jane Schaeffer and Charlene Wilson.

Please call the church office with any changes.

Preparing for next week:

Monday: Psalm 135; Daniel 3:1-30; 1 John 2: 3-11
Tuesday: Daniel 6: 1-28; 1 John 2: 12-17
Wednesday: Isaiah 26: 1-15; Mark 12: 18-27
Thursday: Psalm 4; Daniel 9: 1-19; 1 John 2:18-25
Friday: 1 John 2: 26-28; Daniel 10: 2-19
Saturday: Luke 22: 24-30; Acts 3: 1-10

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