



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 30, 2023

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

***\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***

*Announcements*

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.  
In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**Amen**

**\*Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" ELW#385**

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 "Glory to God" ELW p. 185**

## **CONFIRMATION**

We will be confirming 4 young people next Sunday, May 7. Please plan to attend church as we welcome them to membership in St. Paul's.

## **GRACE LUTHERAN GARAGE SALE**

Once again, Grace Lutheran of Elroy will be holding a continuous garage sale in the alley located behind the church. The address of Grace Lutheran is 226 Erickson Street. The garage sale will be held every Friday (10:00 AM-2:00 PM) and Saturday (9:00 AM -Noon).

The garage sale will begin on Friday, May 5, and run through September, weather permitting.

The monies generated from this annual fundraiser are used for the maintenance of the elevator located in the entryway of the church. . The elevator is a vital part of Grace as the church is the site for the Senior Meals, Food Pantry, Christmas for Kids and many other church and community functions held at Grace.

### **SPRING CLEAN-UP**

Weather permitting, we will work on the church and parsonage grounds next Saturday, May 6 from 9:00—Noon. There are weeds to be pulled, plenty of mulch to spruce up the borders around the plants and whatever we see that needs to be done.

Barb Ornes will be thinning the Stella daylilies. Not sure how many will be available, but if you'd like some, please speak with Barb.

### **SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP**

Brochures with regard to summer events are located in the narthex. Don't forget the church helps with the registration fee and, if you are sending multiple children, additional arrangements can be made.

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

You're invited to help make the May and June birthday/anniversary cards on Sunday, April 30, immediately following worship.

### **LOIS REINEKE ADDRESS**

For those who misplaced last weeks bulletin, here is the address for Lois Reineke:

Schmidt Woodland Nursing Home  
1400 West Seminary St., Room 267  
Richland Center, WI 53581

### **GLORIA MELTESEN ADDRESS**

Mile Bluff Nursing & Rehab Center  
1050 Division St  
Mauston WI 53948

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

#### **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **First Reading**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

#### **Acts 2:42-47**

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

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day 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, <sup>47</sup>praising 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.**

Hymn

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

ELW #778

**Second Reading**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If 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. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When 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. <sup>24</sup>He 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. <sup>25</sup>For 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.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia. Lord,”

**ELW p. 188**

**GOSPEL READING**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

**The holy gospel according to John 10:1-10**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People; Minister: Bill Horn; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Bud Osteboe

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, John Acker, Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Patrick Reardon, Pete Nelson.

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

**CALENDAR**

Sun., Apr. 30	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Social Ministry	11:30 AM
Wed., May 3	Confirmation	6:30 PM—8:00 PM
Thurs., May 4	Quilting	9:00 AM
Sat., May 6	Spring Clean-Up	9:00 AM—Noon
Sun., May 7	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Confirmation	

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEW MEMBER**

We welcome Karen Sparling as our newest member. Coffee and cake will be served in the basement after service. Please stop downstairs and personally welcome Karen to St. Paul’s.

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 190

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

Distribution

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.*

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

**\*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.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Benediction

\*Hymn "The Day of Resurrection!"

ELW#361

**Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C Thanks be to God.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The 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**

Reverend Bill Horn

**Welcoming Our Newest Member to the Congregation**

Karen Sparling has come to our congregation as a former member of Grace Lutheran Church in Elroy.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Karen, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

**\*Apostles' 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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Karen, our sister in Christ,  
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism  
among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God,  
do you promise to support and pray for this new member and her life in  
Christ.

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.  
Welcome**

Let us welcome Karen, our sister in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(Hear us O God.  
**Your mercy is great)**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

\*Offertory Hymn "Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

**ELW# 512**

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Generous God,  
**in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 190

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, .... we praise your name and join  
their unending hymn: