

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2021



AS WE GATHER Today, we welcome Pastor Nowak as He shares the Good news with us in Christ. This Fourth Sunday of Easter focuses on God's love and Jesus as our Good Shepherd. In our culture we hear so many mixed messages of what love is. Popular songs from the past decades or even more contemporary ones tell of what love can and should be; poems, memes, and other influences also are commonly read and seen; even our own emotions and feelings strive to tell us what love is and should feel like. Despite all these mixed messages, our Lord tells us how we are to know real and perfect love. In our Epistle we hear, "By this we know love, that Jesus laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16). Today, we focus on the fact that as our Good Shepherd, Jesus has laid down His life for His sheep. By that sacrifice on the cross and Easter victory, we can rejoice in a perfect love that lasts and an unconditional love that forgives as our Good Shepherd continues to guide, lead, and direct us through all our days.

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE

WELCOME "This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it." *Psalm 118:24*

GATHERING HYMN "There is a Grave" *By: Reverend Robert Nowak*

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

OPENING SENTENCES

1 John 3:16a, 24; John 10:11, adapted

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: By this we know love,

C: that He laid down His life for us.

P: "I am the good shepherd," says the Lord.

C: The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

P: Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in him.

C: And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 23; John 10:11

P: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we confess to You that we have been ungrateful for all You give us to sustain our bodies and lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

C: Like sheep, we are distracted and tend to wander and scatter. We forget who we are as baptized children of God and fail to respond to Your shepherding in our lives. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

C: We confess that in difficult times of life, we sometimes struggle to be confident in Your presence and protection, seeking to find our own comfort. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C: As we journey through this sinful world, we overlook the goodness and mercy that flow into our lives from You. Forgive us, Good Shepherd.

P: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hears our cries and says to us, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Receive the forgiveness won for You through Christ's laying down His life and rising from death in victory. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lamb Of God"

LSB 550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



Refrain
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **Risen Lord, You are the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. They are Yours, and nothing will snatch them from Your hand. In the love You've shown and the perfect love we know through Your Spirit, empower Your flock to reach others, that all may be guided by Your shepherding grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 4:23-31

(The disciples are renewed through the Spirit to proclaim Christ.)

L: ²³When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in Pvain? ²⁶The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'— ²⁷for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 John 3:16–24

(Love one another.)

L: ¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 10:14

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11–18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Jesus the Good Shepherd)

P: ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it

up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LSB 711

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly

need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have

bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,

bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

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SERMON

“The Good Shepherd, Our Greatest Need”

John 10:11-18

Pastor Robert Nowak

CONFESSION OF FAITH - First Article & Meaning

P: Shepherds provide for all the needs of their flock. Out of His love, our creating God provides not only for our spiritual needs of faith and forgiveness, but also for all that we need for our physical, emotional, and social well-being. Believing in God the Father as creator of all is the focus of the Small Catechism’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed, which we confess together:

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer")*
(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In preparation for the Lord's supper, we pray the prayer 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.

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the true faith, to life everlasting. Know that His peace, joy, love and forgiveness is yours now and forever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together. **We give thanks to You, Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, that You have fed us with Your body and blood, which You freely gave us. We pray our faith be strengthened and enabled to live for Your glory as we faithfully follow where You lead. Grant that others be**

brought into Your flock as Your Spirit works within us, who with You and the Father are one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SONG OF SENDING

“What a Beautiful Name”

By: Hillsong Worship

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

POST SERVICE MUSIC

reprise

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

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HOLY CROSS HAPPENINGS **April 25 – May 2, 2021**

WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS! Welcome to the Lord’s House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS –“LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM. Please join us from 10:00 -11:00 am for a study of Luther's Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism. We are using the 2017 newer Catechism that has new updates in teaching about the cultural context we now have in our country and world. We have a few extra copies of the Small Catechism if you need one. Please speak with Pastor Jim. There will be no Bible class today due to the Voter’s Meeting.

HANGING BASKETS ON SALE LAST DAY TODAY - Hanging baskets from Gene Stark’s Glacial Ridge Growers, Glenwood, are still available for purchase. Plants will cost \$25 and payment is requested at the time of your order. There will be a limited number available so members should plan accordingly. Baskets will be delivered to Holy Cross the Friday before Mother’s Day. The fund-raiser will support food for Haiti.

VOTER'S MEETING - Will be held today after the 9:00 am service. Elections for officers will take place at the voter's meeting. Please plan on attending and keep updated on the happenings at Holy Cross.

CLEAN UP DAY – Will be held Saturday, May 15 starting at 8:30am, if it is raining it will be postponed until the following Saturday, May 22, 2021. Please volunteer to help clean up the yard and church. More helpers make for quicker clean up time.

INFORMAL PRAYER TIME – We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 pm.

CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, MAY 23! Our Pray&Play Event for May will be the church picnic. Pray for great weather so we can hold this outdoors! Plan to bring your own picnic foods and drinks and we can gather in small groups. Bring some outdoor game equipment to share (corn hole, frisbees, baseball/softball and glove toss, badminton...) so dress appropriately. If we have enough willing children/youth and adults we can again, have our kick ball game in the parking lot. (If I remember correctly, the adults won last time. 😊) Plan for a fun time, invite a friend or another family to join us. There will be registration for SS in the fall of 2021 as we look forward to more in person meeting with great anticipation!

HOLY COMMUNION: Starting Sunday, May 9, The Lord's Supper will continue to be offered to the congregation with the communion kits receiving the Lord's supper at your seated location. However, we will now also offer communion at the front of the sanctuary from the Pastor and Elder(s) for those who desire to come forward. Ushers will come to each pew/chair to motion you forward for communion if desiring to take continuous flow communion. Pastor and Elder(s) will disinfect/wash hands prior to distribution. Those wanting to come forward for communion will receive the bread (*the Lord's body*) as in the past from the Pastor distributing the bread into your hands. The Elder(s) will have trays of individual cups placed with an open space per cup of wine (*the Lord's blood*). We do ask that per family group or individual to still space 6 feet from each family group or individual as you are ushered forward. [NOTE: Those staying at their seats will commune first with the kits as the Pastor invites you to take the communion elements. Then, if comfortable in receiving communion by coming forward, please remember to lower your mask as you stop to receive into your hands the bread and then to walk to the Elder to take the wine. Thank you. We hope to include kneeling at the altar in the future, but at this time we still ask for your patience as we return gradually to our regular distribution practice. The Lord's blessings upon your communion with our Risen Savior, Jesus.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

SERVING TODAY SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021 9:00 am

Guest Pastor:	Pastor Robert Nowak
Organist:	Bonnie Nowak
Elder/Communion	Dave Albrecht
Lector:	Michele Lein
Ushers:	Paige Westrum
Acolyte:	Blake Dobberstein
AV:	Dinah Gilberts
Offering Counters:	Wendy Fitzwater & Doug Schulze

SERVING SUNDAY May 2, 2021 9:00 am

Guest Pastor: Pastor Robert Nowak
Elder/Communion Brit Weimer
Lector: Pam Hunter
Ushers: Dave Albrecht
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Judy Weimer
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

**CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS
RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$20,928.50
Contributions received in March 2021 \$17,504.57

SUNDAY, April 18, 2021 9:00 am ATTENDANCE

Worship: 45 Drive-up Communion: 1
Communion: 44 Sunday School: 3 kids and 3 adults
Zoom: 18 Bible Study: 17

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sun.	April 25	Fourth Sunday of Easter
	9:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00 – 11:00	Voter's Meeting and Sunday school
	11:15 – 11:45	Drive-Up Communion
Mon.	April 26	
	5:30 pm	Elder and Chairman Zoom Meeting
Tue.	April 27	
	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Wed.	April 28	
	12:00 pm	Happenings Articles Due
	7:00 pm	Informal Prayer in Sanctuary
Thurs.	April 29	
Fri.	April 30	
	9:30	Cleaning Crew
Sat.	May 1	
Sun.	May 2	Fifth Sunday of Easter
	9:00	Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
	10:00	Bible Study and Sunday School
	11:15-11:45	Drive-Up Communion



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Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939