

St. John 10:11a

“Jesus said, I am the good shepherd”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn      *Children of the Heavenly Father*      (ELW) No. 781

\*The Confession and Forgiveness      (ELW) page 94

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting      (ELW) page 138

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.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*)      (ELW) page 138

P: ..... let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise      *Have No Fear, Little Flock*      (ELW) No. 764

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth, that they may return into the way of righteousness. Grant to all that are admitted into fellowship with Christ the power to avoid all things that are contrary to the faith and to follow You according to the will of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 4:1-12

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day (*read responsively*)

Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (sung)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

John 10:11-18

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

(ELW) No. 789

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I 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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) No. 27

\*The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

Announcements

\*The Benediction (sung response)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

(ELW) No. 502

\*The Dismissal (response)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# Children of the Heavenly Father

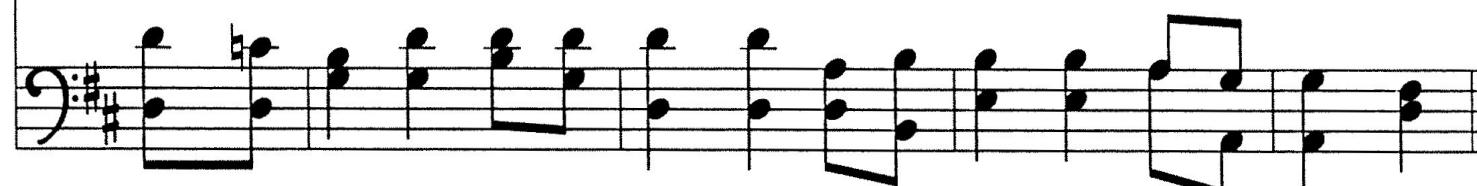
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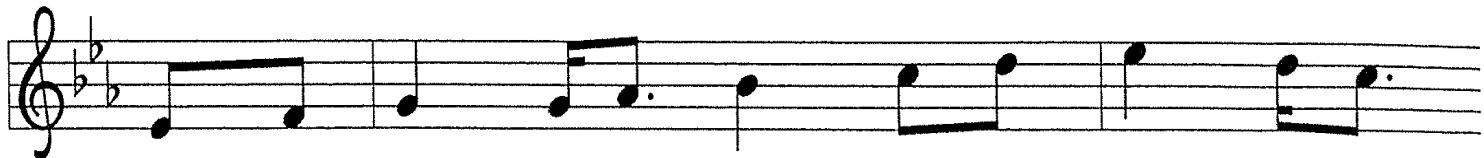
- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.



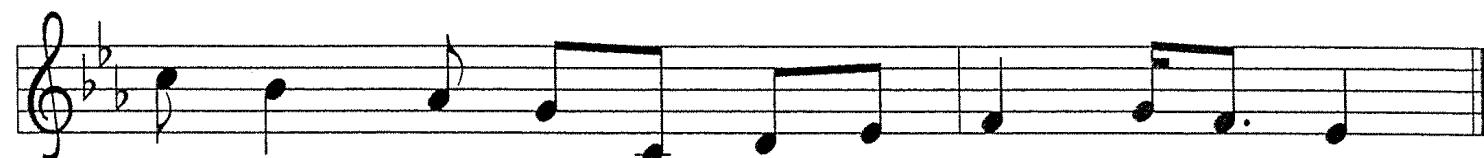
## Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

789

1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-i-an of our way;  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us,  
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us,  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us,  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior,

for our use your fold pre-prepare.  
 seek us when we go a - stray.  
 grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

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.

## The Communion

A musical score for 'The Communion' featuring four staves of music and lyrics. The music is in common time, with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below each staff.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly  
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of  
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The lyrics are written below each staff.

Staff 1 (Treble Clef):

1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

Staff 2 (Bass Clef):

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

Staff 3 (Treble Clef):

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

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

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

## **First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

Online services posted weekly on website: [www.flcwash.church](http://www.flcwash.church)

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto:revrob@flcwash.church)

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God and in honor of those who have defended the faith, we remember Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all the Saints that have gone before us that have been led by the Good Shepherd, Jesus the Christ.

**The Lay Reader** is Denny Lacko.

**Acolytes** are Lillah and Elijah Clark.

**Counters/Greeters** today are J. Black and K. Luketich.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**The Flower Chart for 2024** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2024.** Please write you names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2024.** Please sign up.

**Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.**  
**Please consider this as a call to help others in need.**

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**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Janet Burke, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Lori Mauer, Jennifer Brown, Mark Black, Kenny & Josh Carl, Cindi and John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Mike Phipps, Holly Davis, Pat Dupas, Rich Luketich, Gwen Roberts, Judy Dombrowsky, Chris Maust, Firefighter Zach Correll, and Bonnie Bird.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line  
1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE  
1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE  
724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE  
724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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**Hope for Ethiopia funds are low, please donate.**

**Adult Catechism** class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

**Adult Sunday School** is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

**Bell Choir** rehearsal is Monday at 6:30 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, [kkbргs1@gmail.com](mailto:kkbrgs1@gmail.com). All are welcome.

Our **Dartball team** is looking for more members. Practices are Tuesdays at 7 pm. No experience is needed. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We hope to see you soon. Please contact Dennis Schmidt for information.

**Chess Club** meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

**Hanging Basket Orders must be placed no later than today to Vickie or Caitlyn Group. Orders will be delivered on May 11. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.**

## **MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET**

It is time for the women, daughters and friends of First Lutheran Church to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and fun to honor Mother's Day.

We will meet on May 13 at 6:30 PM in the Delfini Room, formally Danny's restaurant, in Meadowlands, Pa. There are no steps!

Danny will cater and as always serve a delicious meal.

Tickets will be \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children 6-12 and 5 and under free.

Reservations are due by May 5th.

Please see these ladies at church or call them at home:

Linda Coleman - 724-225-8011

Joanne Marker - 724-228-4716

Ruby Rogers - 724-663-5134

Sonie Rea - 724-222-3037

We hope to see everyone at dinner.

Sonie

**Listening for the Promise**  
**Weekly Devotional**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter— April 21, 2024**

"By what power or by what name did you do this?" - Acts 4:7b -

Important people are mentioned in today's passage. They were men of power and position; they were from the high priestly family. They were accompanied by the rulers, elders and scribes. These men made up the Jerusalem Sanhedrin, the ruling body of the Jews. The court was mostly made up of Sadducees, men from a sect of Judaism that did not believe in resurrection. Though some Jews believed in a doctrine of resurrection, the Sadducees adamantly rejected it. This is why the disciples' preaching was particularly disturbing to them. They could not allow the idea of resurrection to gain popularity among the people. They had to put a stop to it, so Peter and John were arrested.

The catalyst for this arrest was the healing of the lame beggar who asked Peter and John for alms. Instead of money, Peter commanded the lame beggar to walk, by the name of Jesus. Peter gave the man a new life and then told the amazed crowds that it was not by his power or ability that the beggar was healed; the healing came by the power of the one they had crucified, the one God raised from the dead. Peter told the people, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out." He spoke about the forgiveness that comes from Jesus Christ.

The court asked Peter and John about the power and name they invoked for the healing. Peter answered, "If we've been arrested because we kindly helped a cripple, then know this: it is Jesus' name that healed the man." Jesus is the source of their power. The Sanhedrin might have let them go, except they did more than just heal the man. They offered forgiveness of sins, the same blasphemous crime that Jesus committed.

The Sanhedrin, especially the high priests, rejected the capstone of everything the disciples preached: the resurrection of Jesus which gave Him the authority to transform the world. This was the crime for which they had been arrested. The proclamation that Jesus is the only way to salvation took away the power of the Jewish leaders; that is why they destroyed Jesus in the first place and why the world still threatens the faithful today. We need not fear because Jesus continues to be the power and authority behind the forgiveness that blots out our sins.

