

Fourth Sunday of Easter



April 21, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

*Kviteseid Lutheran Church
308 North Third Street
Milan, Minnesota*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... God sets a table before us and anoints us with the oil of gladness; our cup overflows (see Psalm 23:5; 45:7).

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!” ELW #385

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

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 sibling in need.

**CALL TO WORSHIP

P The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd. *Ps. 23:1; John 10:14–16*

C He lays down his life for his sheep.

P The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

C He knows us, and we belong to him.

P The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

C He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

GREETING

2 Corinthians 13:13

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.

DIALOG

Romans 10

P The word is near you,

C on your lips and in your heart.

P If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**C and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

P Faith comes from what is heard,

C and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

SCRIPTURE SONG

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

ELW #764

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

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 can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

PSALM 23

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

C ²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

L ³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C ⁴**Though 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.**

L ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

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.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (vs. 1-4) ELW #502

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Ephesians 1:13-14

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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 Pilot,
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.**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

Jude 20

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

Jude 21

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

2 Corinthians 5:17

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us.
But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts;
and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace.
Therefore let us confess our sin.

1 John 3:20

C Lord, have mercy on us. *1 John 3:16–24*
We talk about love, but our actions betray us.
We talk about love, but we neglect the poor.
We talk about love, but we fail to love one another.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit
so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ,
in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

P We seek God’s grace with boldness *1 John 3:16, 21–22*
because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us
and laid down his life for us.
This is the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

C Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, *2 Corinthians 13:11*
encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #686

****OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

C Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us *1 John 3:16*
the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us.
Show us how to share Christ’s love by giving our lives for one another;
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P 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.

C Amen.

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.**

**CHARGE

P In the name of the good shepherd, love one another. *1 John 3:23; John 10:11*

C Amen.

**BLESSING

P May the goodness and mercy of God *Ps. 23:6*
follow you all the days of your life, and, at your life's end,
may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" **ELW #789**

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.

Except as noted, the liturgy is reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012988.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012988.