

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/CARE FOR CREATION SUNDAY

PRELUDE: “Have No Fear, Little Flock” D. Cherwien

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We who too often lose our way gather today to say, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for (God) founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.” And yet those same waters are polluted by the plastics we have made and discarded. We pause to ask ourselves again what it would be like to see creation liberated and experiencing freedom and glory.

Along with all creation we wait for the glory of God to be revealed and we commit to playing our part, as the children of God. May we find liberation from our plastic addiction and healing for our land and water. **Amen.**

P. Scripture tells us that “creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed.”

C: **Creation is waiting for us.**

P: To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

C: **Creation is waiting for us.**

P: To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

C: **Creation is waiting for us.**

P: To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

C: **Creation is waiting for us.**

P: To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

C: **Creation is waiting for us.**

P: To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

C: **Creation is waiting for us.**

P: In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

C: **With God’s help, we will answer creation’s call. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + One God, who calls forth Creation, evokes praise from Creation, and stirs life in Creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of righteousness and justice,

C: You have made the Earth and all that is in it, but we have failed to honor your good work. We do not recognize your presence among us, and our hardened hearts do not hear creation's cry. We have made your good land a desolation, and we dishonor your image in our neighbors. Forgive us, in your steadfast love, O God, for trampling your vineyards and polluting your sky. On your holy mountain, call us again to be stewards of your earth and to join all creation in songs of praise. Amen.

P: Rejoice, for the Incarnate Word has come to you. Laying aside all heavenly glory, the Servant of all is obedient unto death to make of you and all the Earth a new Creation. Rejoice, for Christ, from whom nothing can separate you, + forgives you all your sins. Rejoice, for the One whose name is majestic in all the Earth raises you up to newness of life.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 879 “For the Beauty”



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

GREETING – *Assisting Minister*

- 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.**

KYRIE ELW PG 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



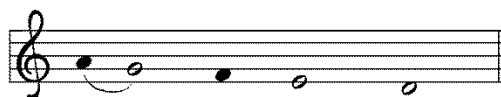
Lord, have mer - cy.



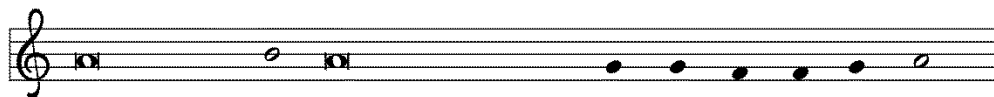
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



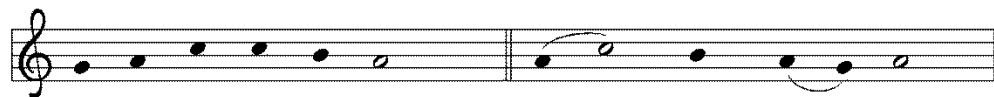
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



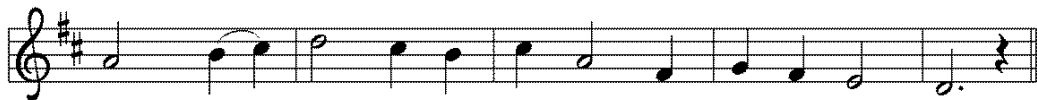
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



All
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY – *Assisting Minister*

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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

Say: Please be seated for sharing of the Word.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

A reading from Acts.

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.”

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

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

²**The LORD makes me lie down[|] in green pastures
and leads me be-[|]side still waters.**

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

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.

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

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.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1 John.

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.

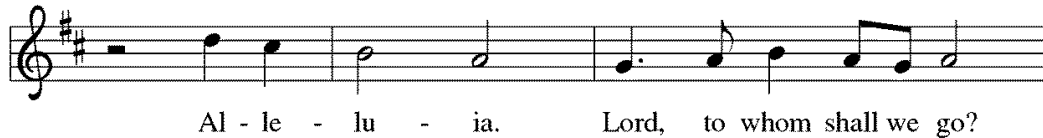
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW PG 151

The assembly stands.



GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.

The assembly is seated.


SERMON HYMN: ELW 838 “Beautiful Savior/




1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown,
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

SERMON

The assembly stands for the hymn of the day.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 789 *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*



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-ian 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, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, 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, 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.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us share our faith in our Creator and Loving God:

We believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator, owner, and lover of heaven and earth who creates all things to live in harmony – Heaven and Earth, Sea and Sky, Sun and Moon, Fish and Birds, Mountains and Valleys, Forests and Deserts, All animals great and small, all human beings and cares for all creation as our perfect, loving parent.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,

Who came to reveal the depth of God's love for all creation, and teach us to live under God's reign of justice, mercy, and compassion. Who suffered death on the cross to save creation from oppression, violence, and hatred, and free us from brokenness, sin, and self-conceit. Who raises us with him into new life to experience joy, peace, and unity with God and all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

Who calls, equips, empowers, and helps us to reject hatred, oppression, and violence against anyone, and to extend justice and mercy, love and compassion to all created things – Earth, Creatures, and Humans – regardless of how similar or different we are from one another.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION- *Assisting Minister*

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

As we join together in celebration of the Earth, we know that there are many things that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to your creation. The issues of the environment and conservation are often associated with differing political views. For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray:

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those in our midst who suffer from sickness and death, we pray today especially for those on St. Peter's Prayer List (*See Prayer List in Bulletin*) and for those we name aloud now or in silence of our hearts. We pray also for brothers and sisters in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era and their pastor, Reverend Sarah Samuelson. We pray: Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

The Assisting Minister concludes the prayers:

God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts and plains; God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams; God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air; God of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred

Earth, We are formed by Christ into your people, called to bring the world into your marvelous light. As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation. We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which you have created. Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged, to care for what you have made good and holy. Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our mind, our hearts, and our ways. Let us be the change we pray for, bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth, for our sake now and for every generation which is to come.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

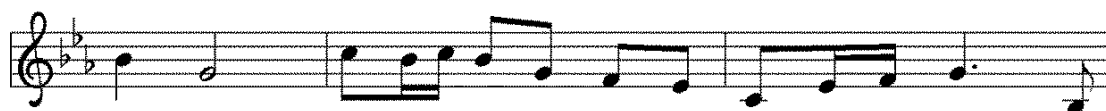
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ELW Pg. 184 *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER – *Assisting Minister*

Let us pray.

A brief silence.

Loving Creator you brought us forth from the very earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings and compel us to use them not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to serve our sister sky, our brother mountain, our mother earth, and all our family in Creation. We pray this in the name of the Word that dwells among us.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

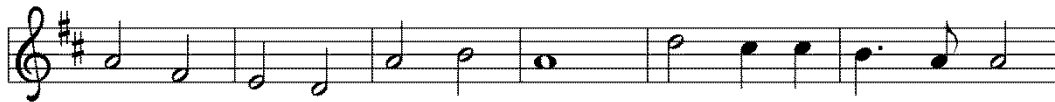
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



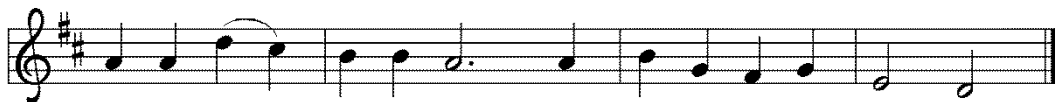
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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

Come and know the Good Shepherd. Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you. This is Christ's table and at Christ's table, all are welcome!

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION SONG ELW PG 154 "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 764 “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!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION --Assisting minister

Let Us Pray

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of all creation, of flowers and trees,
of butterflies and bees,
of squirrels and mountain lions,
bless you, keep you, and strengthen you for the work of loving all Creation.
In the name of the + Triune God.
Amen

SENDING HYMN ELW 502 “*King of Love My Shepherd Is*”



1 The King of love my shep - herd 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



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



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.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One and care for creation.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “*Fugue sur les Jeux D’Anches*” F. Couperin