

King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool

Following Christ, Living Faithfully, Serving Others

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

10am In-Person and Online Worship Livestream at Facebook & kofk.org

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 and resources with any sibling in need.

Our Worship Assistant today is *Riley Sommer*.

Our Greeters are *Phil Layne and Oscar von Bredow*.

Mike Hanson and Mark Sommer are assisting with ushering.

Norma McMorrow and Barbara Cushman are serving on Altar Care.

Congregation Song Leader this morning is *Kathy Dunkerley*

A/V operations are provided by *Matt and Braden Reklau*.

+ GATHERING+

Prelude

Welcome and Worship Notes

You are invited to share in our table fellowship - gather with us around bread and wine/grape juice that you place on your table at home. As we are united by the Spirit of God who transcends all space and time, we are fed and nourished by Christ's gift of himself that fills us with holy love, divine peace, and new life.

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***Song of Praise** from *ELW* Setting 9

p. 196

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

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

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, 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, hon - or, 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, al - le - lu - ia.

***Greeting**

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.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray...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.**

+ WORD +

Time with Our Children

Scripture Reading 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from the 1st letter of John starting in the 3rd chapter.

We know love by this -- that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us -- and we ought to lay down our lives for one
another. How 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?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And 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. All 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.

***Gospel Reading John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according to St. John beginning in the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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.

Sermon

Honduras participants

***Hymn of the Day** *sung twice*

ELW #643

We Are All One in Christ *Somos uno en Cristo*

So - mos u - no en Cris - to, so - mos u - no. So - mos
We are all one in Christ, we are one bod - y, all one

u - no, u - no so - lo. So - mos u - no en Cris - to, so - mos
peo - ple out of man - y. We are all one in Christ, we are one

u - no. So - mos u - no, u - no so - lo.
bod - y, all one peo - ple out of man - y.

Un so - lo Dios, un so - lo Se - ñor, u - na so - la
There is one God, and on - ly one Lord; there is one

fe, un so - lo a - mor. Un so - lo bau - tis - mo, un so - lo Es -
faith, one ho - ly love. There is one bap - tism; there is one

pí - ri - tu, ye - se es el con - so - la - dor.
Spir - it, who is God the com - fort - er.

Text: Anonymous; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: SOMOS UNO, anonymous
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

*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

*Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins (*especially those that we name in the silence of our hearts*). Surround them with your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+ **Meal** +

Offering of Gifts

We appreciate your ongoing support of our work in the community and the world.
At King of Kings, we see our offering as worship; a practice of gratitude, sacrifice, and joy.
You can give online at...Kofk.org Resources/Online Giving.
You can Text-to-Give at 844-251-6727 and follow the one-time setup.

***Offering Prayer**

Let us pray... Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

***Dialog**

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,
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 Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

***Words of Institution**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

***Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to Communion

*The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.*

Communion Song from *ELW* Setting 9

p.201

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.

***Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

+ SENDING+

***Prayer**

Let us pray... Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

***Benediction**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

***Sending Song**

ELW #385

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

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*Dismissal

We go out in mission:

Following Christ, Living Faithfully, Serving Others.

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*Postlude

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