

# Morning Prayer

April 25, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

## The fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

### Prelude

### Announcements

### Opening Hymn

Hymnal 205

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing*

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - jice and sing! Now is the  
4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:  
5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

The image shows a musical score for the opening hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written between the staves. The first system covers the first three lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the last three lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

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

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

The image shows a musical score for the Alleluia. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first line of lyrics is 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' and the second line is 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'.

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## Confession of Sin

*The Presider says*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship, let us keep silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence is kept.*

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that 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.  
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
 have mercy on us and forgive us;  
 that we may delight in your will,  
 and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*A Priest says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, † forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Presider* O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise!

*People* **And your glory all the day long!**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**O come let us worship. Alleluia!**

## **Invitatory**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before God's presence with a song.

**Know this: The Lord himself is God, \***

**Who has made us; we are God's.**

**We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*

give thanks to the Holy One, and call upon God's Name.

**For the Lord is good,  
with mercy everlasting, \***

**and faithfulness enduring from age to age.**

## **Psalms 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures \***

**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

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

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen!  
**O come let us worship. Alleluia!**

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading**

Acts 4:5-12

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>5</sup>The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let 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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb

*Dignus es*        *Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and royal power \*  
are yours by right, O God Most High,

**For you created everything that is, \***  
**and by your will they were created and have their being;**  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
**From every family, language, people, and nation, \***  
**a royal priesthood to serve our God.**  
And so, to the One who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
**Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \***  
**for ever and for evermore.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Second Reading**

1 John 3:16-24

A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

*Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone*

Tune: *Trier*



Good Shep- herd, we are not a- lone, for  
 An- oth- er shep- herd might turn back and  
 A thief may well de- story and steal, but  
 You ga- ther sheep from far and wide — from



you pro- tect and love your own. And we, re- spond- ing,  
 flee at dan- ger's first at- tack; But you laid down your  
 - you, Good Shep- herd, save and heal. You lead your sheep to  
 folds we know and from out- side. One flock, one Shep- herd,



know your voice; We hear you call- ing and re- joice.  
 ver- y life — a lov- ing shep- herd's sa- cri- fice.  
 pas- ture land, to life a- bund- ant, by your hand.  
 there will be — a lo- ving, blest com- mu- ni- ty.

### Third Reading

John 10:11-18

A Reading from John.

[Jesus said,] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*The Presider begins*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
**creator of heaven and earth;**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**  
**and born of the Virgin Mary.**  
**He 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,**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again 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.**

### **The Prayers**

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

**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.**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
**R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
V. Day by day we bless you;  
**R. We praise your Name for ever.**  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
**R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
**R. For we put our trust in you.**  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
**R. And we shall never hope in vain.**

### *The Collect of the Day*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

*Officiant* Savior, we need your tender care. Like a shepherd, lead us, and we will follow. Call us each by name.



*Intercessor* Lead your church into the way of love. Teach us to hear and follow your voice and your vision for the world. We pray for our bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig, all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our sisters and brothers worshipping at Grace Church, Mt. Clemens, St James', Birmingham; and St Mary the Virgin, Montillano, in the Dominican Republic. Tender Shepherd, **call us each by name and lead us home.**

*Silence is kept.*

Guide those around the world who make decisions that impact the lives of individuals and nations. Tender Shepherd, **precede us all in the ways of justice and peace.**

*Silence is kept.*

We give you our deepest thanks and praise for the love and blessings you give us. We are grateful for [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all of these.

*Silence is kept.*

Lighten the burden of those suffering loss, illness, and anxiety, those whom we know and love [especially \_\_\_\_\_], and those who are unknown to us. Tender Shepherd, **comfort them and shower them with your healing grace.**

We pray for those who have died. Carry [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all those who have finished their earthly journey into the next life, and gently place them in God's eternal embrace. Tender Shepherd, **call us each by name and lead us home.**

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider* O God, we believe in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Lead us as a shepherd, going ahead of us in all our ways; that we may be less devoted to our order and more to your justice; to shun the negative peace which is the absence of tension, and to embrace a positive peace which is the presence of justice. Teach us to love one another, just as he has commanded us. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*The Presider then says*

My brothers and sisters, I invite you- wherever you are- to take into your hands the gifts you offer today. Gifts of food, gifts of money, gifts of whatever form, and join me as we offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you. **Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: **Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

LEVAS 144

*Where he leads me*

1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, — I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, —  
 4. He will give me grace and glo - ry, — He will give me grace and glo - ry, —

1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, — “Take thy cross and fol - low, fol - low me.”  
 4. He will give me grace and glo - ry, — And go with me, with me all the way.

Where He leads me I will fol-low,—Where He leads me I will fol-low,—

Where He leads me I will fol-low,— I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

## Dismissal and Blessing

*A Priest says*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

My brothers and my sisters, go now in peace, in the name of + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## Postlude



**REGARDING OFFERINGS TO ST. BARNABAS CHURCH**

**To make an offering to St Barnabas**, please mail your check to the church: 20500 W Old US-12, Chelsea MI 48118-1309. Mail is being collected daily.

**CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS**  
**TO FAITH IN ACTION**

Faith in Action is continuing to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They will be in need of our continuing help in the weeks of winter still to come.

**Needed right now:** *boxed/shelf-stable milk, cooking oil, salt/pepper, spices, coffee, tea bags, sugar, flour, canned tuna, crackers, cake mix, canned frosting, dish soap, women’s hygiene products.* You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **May 16**. The building will be open for you to leave your donations.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at [www.faithinaction1.org](http://www.faithinaction1.org), by [Facebook](#), or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action*, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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**Upcoming Commemorations**

- April 26 Robert Hunt: Priest and First Chaplain at Jamestown, 1607
- 27 Christina Rossetti: Poet, 1894
- 29 Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380
- 30 Sarah Josepha Buell Hale: Editor and Prophetic Witness, 1879

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**April 25, 2021 Easter 4B**

**Acts 4:5-12**

This is a dangerous moment for Peter and John, having just been arrested after the healing of the crippled man at the Temple and their teaching about Jesus’ resurrection. Peter’s courage in the face of interrogation before the gathered court is striking; he speaks the truth about Jesus as the source

of healing, and he speaks plainly about what those authorities have been party to: the rejection and killing of Jesus. This disciple, this regular Joe, stands up to the learned and powerful. We might recall that Peter hasn't always been so courageous. Here, the source of his courage is the Holy Spirit. It fills Peter and calls him to witness to who Jesus is and what he does: saves and heals. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter carries out his call to witness.

- What are other examples you can think of – perhaps modern examples – of Christians speaking truth to power when it was dangerous to do so?
- Is there an experience you can share of something you did that felt impossible or frightening where you sensed the help of the Holy Spirit?

## **Psalm 23**

Psalm 23 is perhaps the most well-known and beloved of the psalms. It describes the relationship between God the Shepherd and the psalmist David. It's easy to see why this psalm would be beloved; it's a beautiful and comforting description of the most trusting of relationships. Scholars have called it a "Song of Trust". The Shepherd guides, refreshes, and nourishes the sheep. Nothing is lacking. And everything provided by the Shepherd is the best. "Green pastures" versus sparse ones, water that is safe and restorative as opposed to rushing torrents or stagnant pools. The Shepherd guides the sheep in the right direction, instead of dangerous ones. Even with trouble all around, God is present and protecting, and God's care is plentiful.

In Hebrew, "mercy" is sometimes translated as "loyal love," indicating a covenantal relationship with all of the obligations of deep commitment. It's a two-way relationship, but one in which the sheep – us – are blessed with all of the best God has to offer.

- Do you feel loved, protected, sustained by God?
- This psalm declares that God wants to meet all of our needs and lovingly care for us. When have you found yourself trusting – or not trusting – in his care?
- Can you describe a time of danger or darkness in your life when you felt the shepherding of God?

## **1 John 3:16-24**

So much is happening in this passage. There's a call to believers to set aside one's own life in order to take care of those in need. There's a caution against hypocrisy. There's a how-to guide on responding to the call of the conscience. There's God's response to prayers. And there's a call to be like Jesus. So much to take away!

This is a letter to a community – a family – of believers in which there are – as with all communities – problems. There's wavering in the belief in Jesus and perhaps some fear about the dangers of being a believer. John calls the community to love and defines love. Love is a verb: evidenced by action, not by words. And, John says, God knows our hearts; God knows our consciences. By truth and action, our hearts are transformed. Our actions and our prayers become an output of love and are met with God's "Yes".

- How have you experienced your faith community as a family with differences and struggles with faith?
- How have you experienced love as a call to selflessness? What does it mean to you to "lay down our lives for one another"?
- Recall a time when you've experienced the transformation brought by living out the love for one another that God commands of us.

**John 10:11-18**

God desires unity, and God is willing to go to any length for it as we see in the theme of laying down one's life that threads throughout today's readings. Jesus' desire for unity demonstrates his commitment and great love. He gives his life voluntarily; no one takes it from him. He does this in order to gather all his sheep into one inclusive gathering of all of God's people. There is great hope in this promise, this yearning, because, as Jesus says, just as he gives his life, so can he take it back again. As this desire to be united provided hope for the Gentiles and others, so too does it provide hope for those on the margins today.

- Inherent in this passage is a message of protection and care that we see in Psalm 23. What does this combination of deep care and God's desire for "one flock" say to you about God's love for you?
- What do you need to "lay down" in your life in order to bring about the kind of unity Jesus describes?

*This study written by Sondra Jones.*

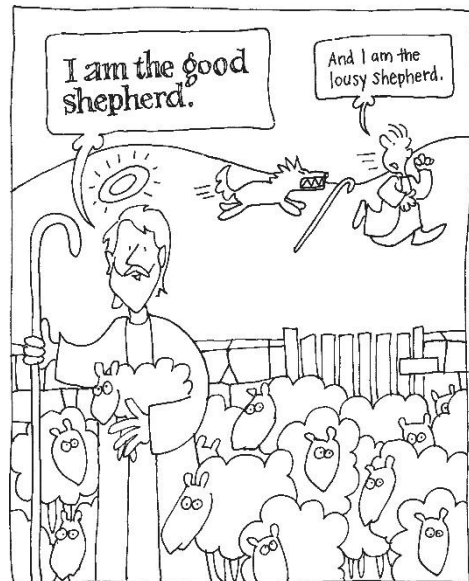
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**Our Mission:**

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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