

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21st, 2024
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

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.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am

**THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE**

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

April 21st, 2024

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

Bennett Williams

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

MEDITATION: You've Got a Friend *by Carole King*

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

EASTER LITANY

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Praise the God and Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

He has claimed us as his own.

He called us from our darkness into the light of his new day.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING: Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!
ELW 369 v 1, 2 & 3



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

RITE OF BAPTISM: RICHARD HENRY PRICE

Please see your insert for the Rite of Baptism.

Kyrie Eleison

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-ry day.

WORD

FIRST READING: 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.

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. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: (Psalm 23) Father, My Shepherd by *C Thomas Schwalm & Bennett Williams*

SECOND READING: 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.

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 sibling 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 God knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey the commandments and do what pleases the Creator.

²³And this is that commandment, that we should believe in the name of the Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey these commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit that has been given to us.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia ELW 174

Please stand as you are able.

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

The Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

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.

[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 Creator knows me and I know the Creator. 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 God 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 God.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUNG WORSHIPPERS' MESSAGE
SERMON**

HOD: In the Garden *by Anne Murray*

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

Refrain: **And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known**

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together.

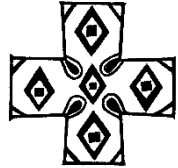
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

P: share that peace with one another



OFFERING: To Make You Feel My Love *by Bob Dylan*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW setting 3 page 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. The Ushers will bring you forward. The Pastor will give you the bread and the communion assistant will have a tray of wine. Please take one cup and drink it. An Acolyte will collect the empty cup. You can go to the rail for a silent prayer or return to your seat.

COMMUNION SONGS

Amazing Grace ELW 779 v 1, 2 & 3

Gratitude by Brandon Lake

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unendi

and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**



Standing is optional.

SENDING: God Be with You Till We Meet Again ELW 536

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sels guide, up-hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; ho-ly wings se-cure-ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per-ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en-fold you;
 dai-ly man-na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a-gain.
 put un-fail-ing arms a-round you;

Refrain
 Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a-gain,

meet at Je-sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a-gain.
 meet a-gain.

DISMISSAL:

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: This is the Day *by Jonathan Macintosh*

The altar flowers are dedicated in honor of all members of the St Peter's Congregation Council by Stephanie Ponnett

&

In memory of Grace I. DeHart by Barb, John Jr., Bryan & Kristopher DeHart

&

In memory of Paula Staub by Gerald and family.

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St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this place their home.

St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month: Emily Eckert, Molly Wise, Beverly Bailey, Nevin Lingle, Steve & Olivia Waite, Emily Booth, Ray Cary, Josie Brewster, Thelma Thomas, Doris Arnold, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell, and Mary Houser.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Kate Haggerty, Mae Stum, Dorothy Murphy, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Betty Wise, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, George Fuoti, Linda Holmes, Regina Heagy, Jim Hurst, Tina Polito, and Richard Brandt.



****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Corbin Stettler, Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Peter's Sunday School program is back! We will meet in the café after church on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays at 11am. We ask parents to join us in the lessons and help the kids grow in their faith journeys.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

St. Peter's is holding a Spring drive for Lutheran World Relief kits. With the current world situation, the warehouse is very empty. This time, we are asking for cash donations to ship kits.

Quilts: \$2.80 each

School kits: \$2.80 each

Personal care kits: \$1.50 each

Thank you for any help you can give! Please mark you add "Lutheran World Relief Kits" to the memo.



PAINT FOR PREVENTION

The Central PA Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Delta (CPAC of KDS) is raising money for Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA). Join us in Luther Hall on Sunday, April 21st from 2pm-5pm for a painting party and silent auction. Your \$40 donation includes paint supplies, snacks, and drinks. Marie Gamon, art educator, will lead us in creating a springtime painting. No art experience is necessary. Please register before April 10th by email: roxannec2@comcast.net

Checks can be made to CPAC of KDS. Cash will be accepted at the event. Venmo: @roxannec2

MEALS ON WHEELS

JUNE is almost here and please consider helping St Peters Middletown deliver meals weekdays in Royalton and Middletown in June. To learn more about the delivering experience please talk with JoAnn Skovira, Carol Hahn, Barb or Allen Jacobs, Kristie or Aaron Young, Gail or Don Hossler. To sign up for June deliveries please

call Gail at 717-944-2250. You do not have to be a member. Peters. St Peters needs persons to drive and persons to deliver. Thank you.

COMMUNITY REQUEST

A member of our community has requested the following items: 2 twin mattress protectors, twin size bedding (sheets & blankets), a king size mattress, and a microwave. If you can donate any of these items, please email Jen: JKemper@StPetersMiddletown.org

HOPE ACADEMY NEW EXPLORERS

Hope Academy PA Preschool at St. Peter's Middletown is enrolling new explorers for the '24/'25 school year and we need YOUR help to spread the word! Please share with anyone you know who has preschool aged children or works with families. Thanks to many generous donors, we have a scholarship program and are anxious to help as many children as possible have a quality preschool education! Email jen@t4hope.org for more information and follow us on Facebook at Hope Academy PA!

CLASS ACT FT. RITA

You are invited to the Spring Fling at Seven Sorrows Church (360 E. Water St. Middletown, PA 17057) on May 18th at 7pm. Enjoy 3 sets of music & dancing from 8pm-11pm performed live by Class Act featuring Rita. Jeremy and Bennett of our own Spirit & Truth band will be playing and singing! Tickets are \$30 per person and should be purchased in advance. Your ticket includes food, beer, wine, soda, and water. You may also BYOB. **To learn more or to reserve your tickets, contact Darlene: 717-991-4563 or Jan: 717-944-2340.**

SUMMER FUN DONATIONS

Instead of throwing away your brown paper bags and brown packing paper, please donate it to the TOGETHER summer fun program for a project. Please have all donations in by May 20th in Luther Hall!

