

# West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Hayfield, MN

April 21, 2024: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Paul Thompson

Organist: Pat Nelson

**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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew**

**us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG (to be selected)**

### **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.**

### **KYRIE (LBW p. 57)**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*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 mercy.**

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**Amen.**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

*You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The Lord be with you.*

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

**O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO GRADUATES**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12**

A reading from Acts, chapter 4:

<sup>5</sup>The next day [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.”

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your 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 prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**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<sup>st</sup> John, chapter 3:

<sup>16</sup>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. <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.

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (pg 62 LBW)**

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

### **GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according to John, chapter 10.

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON... OR HYMN-SING TIME

### HYMN OF DAY (*to be selected*)

#### 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.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems.  
Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and  
all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we  
may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty 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 are grieving or those who are living with illnesses (*especially The family of John Paul Bjornson, Pastor Paul Thompson, Sharon, Jerry, Sandy, Irene, Bill, Cody, Loretta, Gloria, Aloma, Dawn, Darlene, Kelly, Gloria Pew, Boyd, Cindy, Philip, Matt, Jack, Patrick, and Erika*). 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. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. 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.**

**OFFERING (LBW p. 75)**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

## 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.**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now  
and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG *(to be selected)*

### DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Let Christ shine!  
**Thanks be to God.**

### WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook (in narthex).  
*Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.*



**OFFERING:** You may place your offering in the offering plate as you leave (*the plates are not passed*).



**APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**EAST 9:00 am worship** / *coffee always after church*

**BOTH:** 10:00 am at West – JAM Sunday school

**WEST 11:00 am worship** / *West coffee at 10am*

**THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US**

**WELCA Chairperson(s):**

Apr. – Nancy Peterson & Mary Brandt

**Altar Guild:** Apr. - Jane Estby and Sheryl Wohlers

**Acolytes:** Ushers are covering

**Reader:** Apr. 21 - Deb Schuck

**Ushers:** Pete Danielson organizes volunteers

**Deacon:** Apr. - Deb Schuck

**Stewardship:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – WELCA

**READINGS for April 21:**

**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.*

**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.*

**PSALM:** Psalm 23

**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.*

**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.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATTENTION: Pastor Paul is currently hospitalized – so if you have emergency pastoral needs, please call your church council members** (those phone numbers are listed at the end of the bulletin in the section for Church Contact Information).

### TODAY: GRADUATE RECOGNITION

We will recognize our high school seniors during the service today. *We also enjoyed a coffee in their honor before church.* **Our seniors:** Joey Arett, Adam Glynn, Nicholas Larsen, Landon Steinfadt, and Greer Tiegen.

### BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR WOMEN AT ST. JOHN'S Kasson

All East & West women are invited to St. John's fellowship room at 7:00 pm this Thursday, April 25, for their annual birthday party! *Pastor Deborah will introduce us to a bit of Tanzania.*

### DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CEMETERY FLOWERS THIS SUMMER?



My name is **Kendyl Beyer** and I'm a West St. Olaf member. I would like to help keep your flowers blooming all summer. I will water twice a week (*or as needed*) for the months of June, July, and August for \$30 per gravesite. Please contact me at: 507-884-8627 or [kendylbeyer28@gmail.com](mailto:kendylbeyer28@gmail.com)

### WEST WELCA DATES - MAY

**Chairpersons:** Margaret Senjem, Cindy Senjem

**Altar Guild:** Mary and Sandy

8 1:00 PM WELCA meeting - Hostess: Katie Masching  
Bible Study: To be determined

11 SE MN Synod Assembly in Mankato

27 Memorial Day: Sharon Gulbransen

## HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

|                        |          |  |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>TODAY</b>           | 9:00 am  | East worship-coffee after service  |
|                        | 10:00 am | Both-JAM at West church  |
|                        | 10:00 am | <u>West Senior Recognition Coffee</u>  |
|                        | 11:00 am | West worship ( <i>Bible for seniors</i> )  |
| <b>Apr. 22 (Mon.):</b> | 7:00 pm  | <u>Deadline to submit newsletter info</u>  |
| <b>Apr. 23 (Tue.):</b> | 10:00 am | East quilting/sack lunch   |
| <b>Apr. 24 (Wed.):</b> | 7:00 pm  | Both confirmation at West ( <i>verify</i> )  |
| <b>Apr. 25 (Thu.):</b> | 7:00 pm  | Women's Birthday Party at St. John's Kasson... in fellowship hall ( <i>all West &amp; East women invited</i> ) |
| <b>Sun. 04/28</b>      | 9:00 am  | East worship/ <u>communion</u> / coffee  |
|                        | 10:00 am | Both-JAM at West church  |
|                        |          | West coffee  |
|                        | 11:00 am | West worship/ <u>communion</u>   |

## COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

|                        |          |  |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>Apr. 30 (Tue.):</b> | >>>>     | <u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u><br>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:40-collate) |
|                        | 10:00 am | East quilting/sack lunch   |

### MAY 2024

**WEST 9:00 am worship** / West coffee at 10am

BOTH: 10:00 am at West - JAM Sunday school

**EAST 11:00 am worship** / East coffee after church

|                       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| <b>May 2 (Thu.):</b>  |          | <i>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</i>   |
| <b>May 5 (Sun.):</b>  | 9:00 am  | West worship/ <u>communion</u>  |
|                       | 10:00 am | Both-JAM at West church   |
|                       |          | West coffee   |
|                       | 11:00 am | East worship, <u>communion</u> / coffee   |
| <b>May 7 (Tue.):</b>  | 10:00 am | East quilting/sack lunch  |
|                       | 6:00 pm  | <u>EAST church council meeting</u>  |
| <b>May 8 (Wed.):</b>  | 1:00 pm  | <u>West WELCA meeting, Katie Masching is host (study TBD)</u>                       |
| <b>May 11 (Sat.):</b> | >>>>     | <u>SEMN Synod Assembly-at the MANKATO Mayo Clinic Event Center (9:00 am-5:30pm)</u> |

## TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**West Prayers:** The family of John Paul Bjornson (*nephew of Ardean/Carma*) Pastor Paul Thompson, Sharon Gulbransen, Jerry Nelson, Sandy Miller (*sister of Carma. B.*), Irene Walker (*Katie Masching's aunt*), Bill Tietje (*brother of Carma B.*), Cody Hegna, Loretta Himle, Gloria Brown, Aloma Eastlee, Dawn Hugeback, Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Gloria Pew, Boyd Pew, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*).  
**Those serving in our military:** Jack Kenyon (*nephew of Will & Gail Laxen*), Patrick Reynolds (*grandson of Sue Hyland*), Erika Smith (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*).

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**ATTENTION:** Pastor Paul is currently hospitalized – **so if you have emergency pastoral needs, please call your church council members** (*those phone numbers are listed below*).

**SECRETARY: Gina Moser:** (*Please call before driving to office*)

**Office Phone:** 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

**Emails:** eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

**OUR WEBSITES:** eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

**JANITORIAL SERVICE:** Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

## COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President, Will Laxen: 507-208-5399

Vice President, Hans Estby: 507-365-8600 or 507-259-8843

Head Deacon, Sheryl Wohlers: 507-365-8816 or 507-259-5974