

EASTER 4

Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church
Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-5265

APRIL 25, 2021

2515 W. Grand River Ave
Pastor Mark Franck
www.howellprinceofpeace.org

WELCOME!

If you are a friend who's been here before, welcome back. If you are a first-time visitor, welcome! We'd appreciate it if you would leave your name and address in one of our guest books located in either entry way. Children's bulletins and crayons are available on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. If we can serve you in any way, please let us know God bless your worship!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

AS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, OUR MISSION IS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GOSPEL OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST, NURTURE BELIEVERS, AND EQUIP THEM FOR LIVES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE, ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

The time before worship begins is a sacred time for meditation, prayer, and worship preparation. As we gather in the sanctuary, lets quietly reflect on God's blessings and direction in the Scripture readings included in the worship folder.

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Service of the Word – page 38 in the front of the hymnal

HYMNS: 432, 375, 147, 436

ORGANIST: Sandi Lietzau

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 432: I am Jesus' Little Lamb

1 I am Jesus' little lamb; Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me, Knows my needs and well provides
me,
Loves me every day the same, even calls me by my name.

2 Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

3 Who so happy as I am, even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast, there within his arms to rest.

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION

Pastor: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Congregation: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on

me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Congregation: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues forever.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forever; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:23-33

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of

your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One." 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. 32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

THE PSALM: Psalm 23

The sheep of the Lord proclaim his loving care which guides them in this life and gives them eternal rest in heaven.

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd,

Congregation: I shall not be in want.

Pastor: He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.

Congregation: He restores my soul.

Pastor: He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Pastor/Congregation: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Pastor: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil.

Congregation: My cup overflows.

Pastor: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

Congregation: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1-2

1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

THE VERSE

Pastor: I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.
Alleluia!

Congregation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 10:11-18

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN 375: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

**1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.**

**2 Where streams of living water flow, my Savior gently leads me;
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feeds me.**

**3 Confused and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**4 In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still, your cross before to guide me.**

**5 You spread a table in my sight, a banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight; my cup is overflowing!**

**6 And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever!**

THE SERMON TEXT: John 10:11-18

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

You Have The Perfect Shepherd!

1 What makes him so unique?

Consider the laying down of his life.

Consider his Father’s love for him.

Consider his confidence.

2. What does it mean to know him?

He died and rose for me.

He connects me to the Father.

He gives me his confidence in this world.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed, page 41 in the front of the hymnal

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed.

PRAYER

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.

HYMN 147: Like the Golden Sun Ascending

**1 Like the golden sun ascending, breaking through the gloom of night,
On the earth its glory spending so that darkness takes to flight,
Thus my Jesus from the grave and death's dismal dreadful cave
Rose triumphant Easter morning at the early purple dawning.**

**2 Thanks to you, O Christ victorious! Thanks to you, O Lord of life!
Death has now no power o'er us, you have conquered in the strife.
Thanks because you did arise and have opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory of the resurrection story.**

**3 You have died for my transgression; all my sins on you were laid.
You have won for me salvation; On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise and shall meet you in the skies.
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.**

**4 Grant me grace, O blessed Savior, and your Holy Spirit send
That my life and my behavior may be pleasing to the end,
That I may not fall again into death's grim pit and pain,
Whence by grace you have retrieved me
And from which you have relieved me.**

**5 For the joy your advent gave me, for your gospel's great reward,
For your baptism which has saved me, for your supper and your word,**

**For your death, the bitter scorn, for your resurrection morn:
Lord, I thank you and extol you, and in heav'n I shall behold you.**

PRAYER

BLESSING

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Congregation: Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 436: Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

**1 Jesus, shepherd of the sheep, Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by you.**

**2 In your promise firm we stand; None can take us from your hand.
Speak—we hear-at your command, We will follow you.**

**3 By your blood our souls were bought; By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught, lord, to follow you.**

**4 Father, draw us to your Son; We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done, There to live with you,**

**5 We, in robes of glory dressed, Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest In the fold with you.**

Announcements

1. Bible Hour meets after worship this morning.

In adult Bible hour we continue our study of Proverbs and renew our focus on outreach as we continue the Bible Study “One By One” Part 3 – God provides courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

Join us!

2. Confirmation meets on Monday, April 26th, 3:30-5:00 pm.

3. Online Bible Class Continues.

The Format:

I send out weekly study guides in a congregational email on Mondays. You have an opportunity to work through the study guides at home.

I post an online video in which I work through the weekly study guide on Wednesdays. This video is sent out as a congregational email.

This week, we continue our study of John’s epistles.

4. Thursday morning Bible class meets at 10:00 am. We are continuing our study of Joshua. Join us!

5. The new Christian Worship Hymnal will be released this Advent Season. If you would like to learn more about this new hymnal, we have booklets entitled “Christian Worship Preview” on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. You can also go to the hymnal website: **christianworship.com**.

6. **The LWMS Spring Rally will not be held this year again due to the COVID pandemic.**

Our missions still need our help and support. I will need all Mite box donations by April 27th, so I can get it sent to the treasurer by May 2nd. Please place all donations in my church mailbox, or mail them to my home address. I am sorry for the late notice, I just received an email today regarding this information. Thank you for your continued support of our LWMS Missions.

Lynn Van Buren

7. We will have a weeding and mulching day at the church on Saturday, May 1st. You are invited. We will get started at 9:30 am. Bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay for lunch. Bring your favorite weeding tools. In the event of rain, the alternate date for this event will be May 8th.