

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125
LuRae Hallstrom, Pastor; Cell: 402-269-7147, Home: 402-269-3147

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 23 – read in unison)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GATHERING HYMN: "Pass It On"

- 1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it. You spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on.**
- 2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; The birds begin to sing; the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it. You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.**
- 3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found. You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know; The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on. I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know; The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.**

"Pass It On," words and music by Kurt Kaiser. ©1969 by Lexicon Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God, you loved this world so much that you sent your own son, Jesus Christ to live and die among us, in order that we might have life.

C: **Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves, for jealously hoarding your generous gifts, for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice. Teach us what it means to live as children of the light, generously sharing your abundance with our brothers and sisters in need. Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: **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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

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 brother or sister 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 he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

[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 Father knows me and I know the Father. 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 the Father 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 Father.”

MESSAGE

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY: “For Those Tears I Died”

1. You said You’d come and share all my sorrows. You said You’d be there for all my tomorrows. I came so close to sending You away. But just like You promised, You came there to stay. I just had to pray.

Chorus: And Jesus said “Come to the water, stand by My side. I know you are thirsty, you won’t be denied. I felt ev’ry tear drop, when in darkness you cried. And I strove to remind you that for those tears I died.”

2. Your goodness so great, I can’t understand. And dear Lord I know that all this was planned. I know You’re here now and always will be. Your love loosed my chains and in You I’m free. But Jesus why me? Chorus.

3. Jesus I give You my heart and my soul. I know that without God I’d never be whole. Savior You opened all the right doors. And I thank You and praise You from earth’s humble shores. Take me, I’m Yours. Chorus.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "We Are Marching In the Light of God"

1. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, we are marching, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, we are marching, we are marching in the light of God.

3. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying, we are praying, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying, we are praying, we are praying in the light of God.

4. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing, we are singing, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing, we are singing, we are singing in the light of God.

"We Are Marching in the Light of God." Words and music by Anders Nyberg|Andrew Maries. ©1987, 1991 Sovereign Music UK|WGRG, Iona Community Used by permission. CCLI. license #2452533.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pat Jobman, Velda Lenner, Sharon Vrtiska, Tanner Schmidt, our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mike Snyder (April 26), Scott Nouzovsky (April 28), Tanner Hippen, Kate Fritzen (April 29).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Steve & Glenda Knoche (4-25-80), Kevin & Janice Uecker (4-25-86) and Tyler & Chelsea Eggert (4-27-19).

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: This morning we welcome Tyler Cole Tremain through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Tyler is the son of TJ and Gina Tremain and was born March 19, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. His sponsors are Ashton and Preston Sunneburg. Welcome to your new family at American Lutheran, Filley!

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES: Congratulations to these 2021 graduates. Our prayers and best wishes are with you!

- Kelsay Bledsaw
- Wyatt Currie
- Jonathan Janssen
- Ellison Lenner
- Hiedi Lenner
- Cayd Wilgers

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the 6th & 7th grade confirmation kids and Alycia for helping to assemble the personal care kits. We put together a total of 64 kits. Great job! Thank you to everyone who donated towards this ministry for Lutheran World Relief.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to CASA during April. Your support and donations were very much appreciated. Thanks to Norm Mortensen for allowing his Thrivent card to be used for this ministry.

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex if you would be willing to host Fellowship Hour. As of now, we are serving individually bagged cookies/treats. Thank you for your help!

THRIVENT ACTION CARD PROJECT - SAVE CAN TABS. From now until the end of June we are collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house in Omaha. This project will help families with costs to stay when their child is in a hospital in Omaha. Container for tabs is downstairs in fellowship hall.

BEAUTIFUL THINGS COME TOGETHER ONE STEP AT A TIME. Come enjoy an evening about quilts with Susan Hottovy of Forest Acres Custom Quilting and Zion Ladies Aide hand quilting. Display of quilts made by members and friends of Zion. Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. Zion Parish Hall. Refreshments served. RSVP by May 6 to Karen Gilbreath 402-661-9362.

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY: American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. All items are much appreciated. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU for your continued support to this ministry!**

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our first goal of \$150,000 and received the first check for \$1000, so now we are starting over again! You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at smahleris@gmail.com.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on Facebook and on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com with your email address.

COMING UP:

May 2 – First Communion

May 9 – Mother's Day

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Council – Dave Norton-President, Virgil Jobman-Vice President, Carol Frerichs-Secretary, Brenda Hippen-Treasurer, Linda Searcey-at large

Reader – Everett Bohling

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Dave Norton

Musicians: Carlyne Wolken, Pat Jobman, Tom Karlin, Alycia Fritzen, Lodene Kaufman, Dave Norton, Virgil Jobman