



**St. Paul  
Lutheran Church**  
share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

*The Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor*  
*Praise Band*

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
**April 21, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**



**Next weekend's readings:**

**Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31; 1 John 4: 7-21**

**John 15: 1-8**

**LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!**

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org), and click "**Listen**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor

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## Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship! All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to participate with appropriate elements.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org). It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.
- + Everyone is invited for coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning's service.

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 of God's children in need.

## GATHER

### Prelude

### Announcements

*Those who are able, please stand.*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy .

**Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

### HYMN

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## Greeting

**P:** 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** 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**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## 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.*

<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."

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

## 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**

*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.*

<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.

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

*Those who are able, please stand.*

## **Gospel Acclamation** ELW 142

*(See Overhead Screen)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John **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:] <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.**

**Children’s Word**

**Pastor Stan Larson**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Stan Larson**

*Those who are able, please stand*

**Hymn**

*(See Overhead Screen)*

**Nicene Creed**

**A: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. 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.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**Offering** *The offering plates will be passed.*

## Offertory

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## Offering Prayer

**P:** 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.**

## MEAL

### **The Great Thanksgiving** *ELW 144*

**P:** 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,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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**

*Sit*

## Communion

*All are welcome to the Lord's table. White grape juice is in the center of the tray of cups. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. You may also remain in your pew and use a prepackaged kit.*

*Stand as able*

## Prayer after Communion

**P:** 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.**

# SENDING

## Blessing

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## Sending Song

*(See Overhead Screen)*

## Dismissal

**P:** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



**This Weekend: 4/21**

**9:00 am USHERS:** John D. & Kay Marburger  
Gloria Raschke and Ginger Muesse

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ginger Muesse

**Fellowship Refreshments:** The Davis Family

**FLOWERS:** The Bellue Family in Celebration of the marriage of Hannah Bellue and Nathan Holub on Saturday, April 20.

**Next Weekend: 4/28**

**9:00 am USHERS:** John Acosta & Lynnette Boyd  
Paul Mikula and Gary Anders

**LECTOR:** David Ehler

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ashleigh Parks

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Sandra Teykl

**FLOWERS:** In Memory of W.O. "Red" and Marilyn Miller by the Neal Miller Family.

**SUNDAY (4/21):** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30: Adult Education  
**MONDAY:** Newsletter Deadline  
**TUESDAY:** St. Paul at Second Chance  
**WEDNESDAY:** 8:30 am Bible Study  
5:00 pm Confirmation  
6:30 pm LYO  
8:00 pm Praise Band  
**FRIDAY:** LYO Scholarship Application  
deadline  
**SATURDAY:** MS-150 Group overnight  
**SUNDAY (4/28):** 9:00 am Worship

**REMINDER**—Deadline for the **MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER** is MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024 at 3:00 pm. Please call the Church Office if you have any questions at: 979-968-5657.

**REMINDER**—St. Paul is at Second Chance this week from Tuesday thru Saturday. Volunteers will return on Monday 4/29 to prepare for the next group.

**REMINDER**—St. Paul LYO (College) Scholarship applications are available. The scholarship is for LYO members of St. Paul. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, April 26, 2024. Please contact Ann Raborn for more information at: (979) 249-7195.

**LEND A HELPING ARM**—La Grange Community **BLOOD DRIVE** is Wednesday, April 24, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the KC Hall, 190 S. Brown St., La Grange. To donate please scan the QR Code on the poster on the bulletin boards or email Craig at [cwellborn@weareblood.org](mailto:cwellborn@weareblood.org).

**REMINDER**—St. Paul is hosting a group from Frost Bank MS-150 Team on Saturday, April 27. The group arrives that afternoon, ventures out for a meal and then spends the night at St. Paul. On Sunday morning the LYO will prepare them breakfast and they are usually back on their bicycles and on the road by 6:30 am. This group has a long history of staying at St. Paul and supporting the LYO with a monetary contribution.

