

FIRST READING. Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING. 1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

‘He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.’

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL. John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.



Fourth Sunday Of Easter

Sunday, April 30, 2023

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

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The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Psalm 23 – Tune 380, Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (Fred til Bod)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

God, my shepherd, shall provide | **Ev'rything I want or need.**
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; | **I shall follow where you lead.**
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Where my shepherd welcomes me, | **There is true security.**
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff--they comfort me.

God, my shepherd, shall provide | **Ev'rything I want or need.**
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Oh, good shepherd, be my guide; | **I shall follow where you lead.**
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Where my shepherd welcomes me, | **There is true security.**

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Offering Prayer – read in unison

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Dates to Remember

May 5 6:00 PM – Ladies’ Night Out; proceeds to support Rose City Kids

It’s time to clean up our church records. We invite everyone to participate in our membership survey.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 4 – Page 147

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for BaptismPrinted
Gathering Song .385 Good Christian Friends,
Rejoice and Sing!

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Prayer of the Day

WORD

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Second Reading1 Peter 2:19-25
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“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelJohn 10:1-10
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon
Hymn of the Day778 The Lord’s My
Shepherd

Nicene CreedPage 104
Prayers of Intercession
Prayer Response“Your mercy is great.”
Peace (non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayerprinted
Great Thanksgiving.....Page 152
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s PrayerPage 154
Communion
“Lamb of God”Page 154
Communion Hymns464, 482
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing
Sending Song .764 Have No Fear, Little Flock

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.