

May 3, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Security of an Open Door

The parakeet had two favorite sentences: "More milk, please," learned by eavesdropping on dinner table conversations in a household with four children, and "Shut the door!" learned from adults who couldn't seem to convince those children that the furnace was not big enough to warm both the house and the back yard.

In John 10, Jesus says, "I am the door" (RSV) or "I am the gate" (NRSV). In some contexts, the image of a door or gate might conjure up exclusion, as when we hear about gated communities or read the sign, "authorized personnel only" on a door. Doors and gates often exist to be shut, to keep warm air inside in the winter or to keep some perceived danger out.

By contrast, when Jesus calls himself the gate for the sheep, it is clear that this gate is not closed, but open. "Whoever enters by me will be saved," Jesus says. You enter by an open door, rather than a closed one. Furthermore, those who enter "will come in and go out and find pasture." This gate allows the sheep freedom to move around as well as something else sheep need from day to day: enough to eat.

Often in public life, security is placed over against freedom, as if our lives will be safe only if we relinquish certain freedoms for ourselves or others. Yet Jesus doesn't require this trade-off of those who hear his voice and follow him. Jesus is a door that does not need to be shut to be useful. He is a gate that offers security and freedom together. Those who enter by this gate are saved, free, and provided for--all at the same time. Maybe this combination is what Jesus is talking about when he says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

First St. John Lutheran Church

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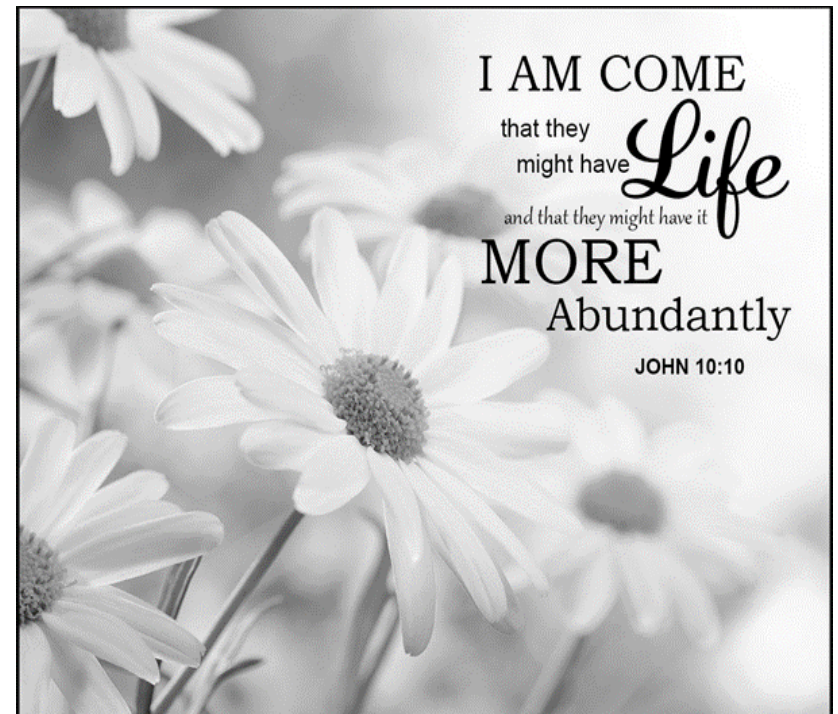
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

May 3, 2020 - 10:15 am

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex.

We offer a traditional service and a celebration service, a joint effort between members of both services with special music and a message. Our Sunday schedule is:

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| 7:45 am | Traditional Service |
| 9:00 am | Sunday School |
| 10:15 am | Celebration Service |

A.W.E. Service: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this service has been suspended for the time being.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft.

Children ages 3 through 6th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: The 7th grade class meets at 9:00 am on Sundays in the catechism room next to the ladies restroom on the second floor of the Educational Building. Eighth grade class meets every other Sunday at 11:30 am in the lounge for a light lunch and class.

Nursery: Our nursery is in the church basement. The nursery is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table & a semi-private nursing area also are available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement. In the hallway, the ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, there is a sign up book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you may call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| dish soap | shampoo, child | toothbrush, child |
| paper towels | laundry soap | tampons |
| toilet paper | fabric softener sheets | sanitary pads |
| tissues | body lotion | band aids |
| deodorant | body soap | toothpaste, adult |
| shampoo, adult | toothbrush, adult | toothpaste, child |
| disposable razors | | |

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



Blessing and Dismissal

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and empower you for discipleship. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen, just as he promised. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Closing Song *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"* No. 759
Postlude

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Tom Eppard

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

ACOLYTE

Jenna Pawlaczyk

ORDER OF WORSHIP – CELEBRATION SERVICE

Praise Prelude

Prelude

Ring of the Bell *(please stand)*

Opening Hymn *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"* No. 392

Thanksgiving For Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The water is poured into the baptismal font.

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.

Baptismal Hymn – Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises sing. Love drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, and justice, love, and praise.

Greeting and Prayer

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

"Sanctuary" (please stand)

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.*

Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

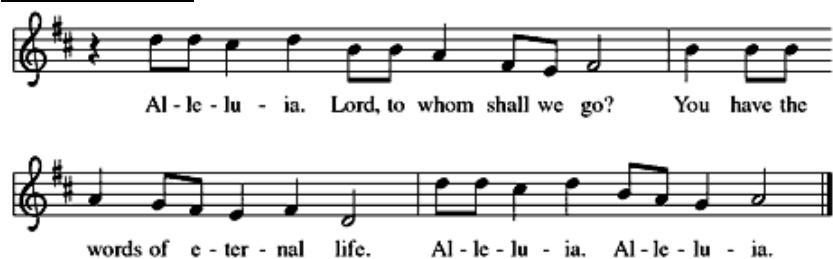
The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

Alleluia Verse



Gospel Acclamation (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 10.

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

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

[Jesus said:] "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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

Message Song "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Pastor Rayl

No. 789

(Please stand)

Apostles' 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,

⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

⁴**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.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely your 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 Peter 2:19-25

Peter addresses the theme of suffering. Jesus, the shepherd and guardian of our souls, models for Christians how one suffers for doing what is right.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**