



## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: 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!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

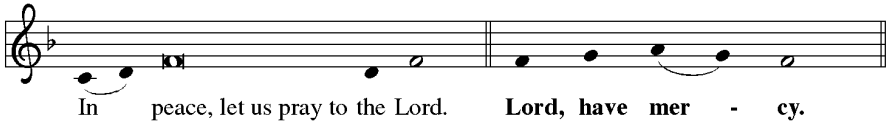
P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

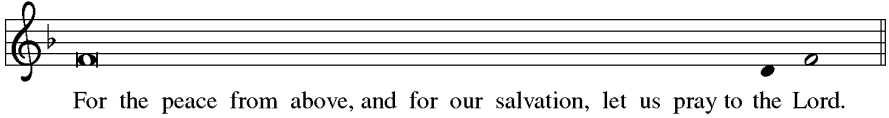
P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

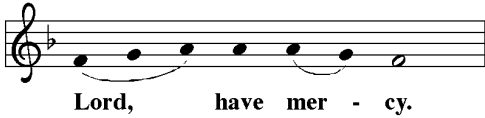
# \*Kyrie



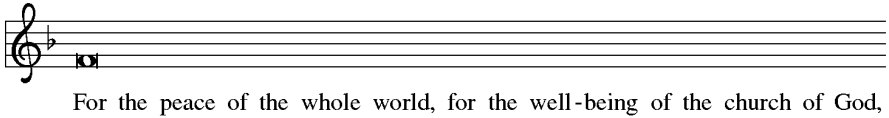
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



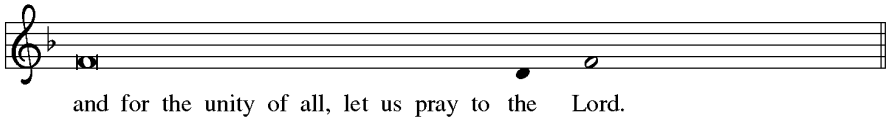
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



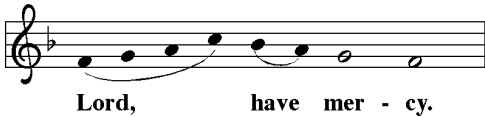
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



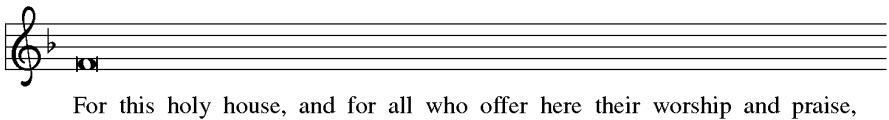
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## \*Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

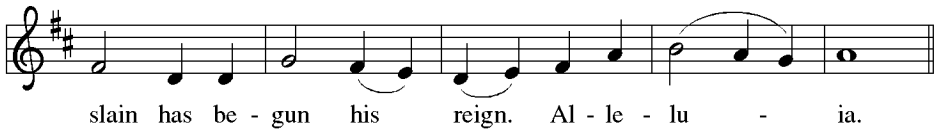
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

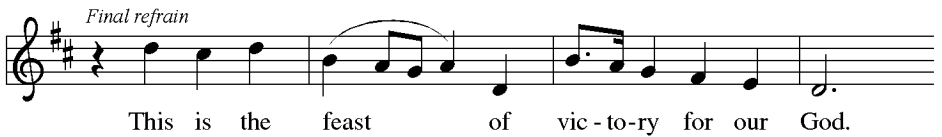


al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

### **\*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.

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### 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.*

R: A reading from Acts, the fourth chapter.

<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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Responsive Reading:

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.*

R: A reading from 1 John, the third chapter.

<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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



## **\*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.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

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

P: [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.

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

## **Children’s Sermon**

### **Sermon**

**\*Sermon Hymn:**    *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*        **ELW 782**



## **\*Nicene Creed**

**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**

R: 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.*

R: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: 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. Provide your healing touch to all who are sick or hurting, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### \*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(10:30) Sr. Choir:     *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*     D. Paxton

### Offering

#### \*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.

C: **Amen.**

#### \*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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,

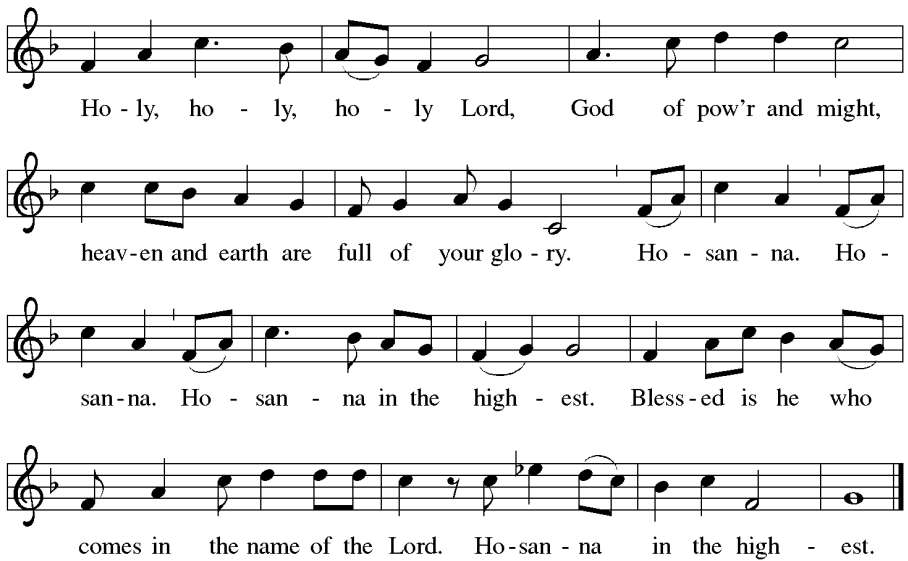
    and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

    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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: 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.

P: With this bread and cup  
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life:  
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
 Bless this feast.  
 Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

P: The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### **Distribution of Communion**

*Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.*

*If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let Pastor Tim know and he will offer a blessing.*

### **Communion Hymns:**

**ELW 778** *The Lord's My Shepherd*

**ELW 764** *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

### **\*Post Communion Blessing**

**P:** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

**\*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.

C: Amen.

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**\*Blessing**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn:**            *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*            **ELW 789**

**\*Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**\*Postlude:**                            *Like a Shepherd*                            **David L. Crouse**

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**GOOD SHEPHERD**, in you I have everything I need. Thank you for guiding me along the path of life.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today in honor of our 61<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 20<sup>th</sup>, by Bob and Sandie Reed.

**THE SCHEDULES FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES** are in the office on the shelf. Please consider attending and supporting our youth. Thanks.

**TRINITY RAINBOW CIRCLE SOUP SALE:** Trinity Church, 204 N. Wayne Street, Fremont is taking homemade **soup orders until today, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. Chicken Noodle and Vegetable Beef soup for \$9.00 a quart. There are order forms available with the flyer on the bulletin board in the coat area. You may mail the order form or drop it off or call Gloria Nitschke at 419-680-2526. Pay for soup at pickup on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Church. A variety of baked goods will be available for purchase on the pickup day.



**WANTED:** Dave Ring is looking for more volunteers to learn how to run the camera and tape the services for Facebook. There is a need for both Sunday services. Youth are welcome as well. We really need more help and would love to teach you the ropes. Either talk to Dave or call him at 419-334-4145. There is a sign-up sheet in the coat room area. Please prayerfully consider giving it a try! Thank you!



## ASSISTING TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Miller      **Organist:** Parm Boyer

**Sr. Choir Director:** Darla Brown

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Greeter:**            Bill & Ruth Seibert      Mike & Toni Cooper

**Lector:**                            Becky Fox      Toni Cooper

**Acolyte:**                            Robert Fought

**Communion:**      B. Fox/K. Smith      G. Walker & Noelle Leutenegger

**Counters:** Cheryl Durnwald\* & Randy Koch

**Fellowship Time Host:**

**Altar Guild:** Sandie Reed & Sarah Wilson

## ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Miller      **Organist:** Parm Boyer      **Pianist:** Becky Fox

**Sr. Choir Director:** Darla Brown      **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Greeter:** Gary & Bonnie Overmyer      Randy & Peggy Koch

**Lector:**                            Jim Seibert      Evan McBride

**Acolyte:**                            Mason Harder      Evan McBride

**Communion:**            J. Neill/S. Reed      Randy Koch & Randy Brown

**Counters:** Niki Wasserman\* & Nicole Weiker

**Fellowship Time Host:**

**Altar Guild:** Sandie Reed & Sarah Wilson

## PRAYING DAILY



**For healing and hope:** Pat Copley, Connie Diekman, Mary Ann Diekman, Roger Goehring, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Bob Schneider, Dorothy Swedersky, Janet Tressler, Ray Vogel, Carnetta Weber.

Mark Coleman, Jan Dufendock, Emili Egbert, Jay Kinchy, Rick & Brenda Myer, Carol Robinson, Vern Swick.

**For the Family of:** Sandy Vollmar, Cinda Jones, Larry Aldrich

**For our Military:** Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Daniel Linder, Katie Olmstead, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

**For our Bishops:** Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

**For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania**

**And its pastor:** Pastor Peter Magasi

**FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – April 21 to April 28**

**Sunday**

Apr. 21-----8 & 10:30 a.m.   Worship with Holy Communion  
                                  9:15 a.m.    Sunday School & Fellowship Time  
                                  Noon       Lunch Bunch to Ole’ Zim’s

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**

**Monday**

Apr. 22-----8 a.m.       Men’s Group in Fellowship Hall  
                                  10 a.m.     Valley View Tea Time with God  
                                  11:30 a.m.   FLCW Visitation at Bob Evans

**Tuesday**

Apr. 23-----7:00 p.m.    Esther Circle – Praying the Psalms #8

**Wednesday**

Apr. 24-----6:30 p.m.   Bell Choir  
                                  7:30 p.m.   Praise Choir  
                                  7:30 p.m.   Senior Choir

**Thursday**

Apr. 25-----3 p.m.     Christ Care

**Friday**

Apr. 26-----

**Saturday**

Apr. 27-----9:15 a.m.   Christ Care

**Sunday**

Apr. 28-----8 & 10:30 a.m.   Worship with Holy Communion  
                                  9:15 a.m.    Sunday School & Fellowship Time

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SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024: ATTENDANCE: 158 – OFFERING \$4,550.00

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## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**April 21, 2024**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **Always Room for One More**

When Jesus says “I am” in the Gospel of John, he unlocks a new perspective on his love. In today’s reading, when Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd,” we can imagine our Lord caring for us and guiding us. We picture ourselves as his sheep. It’s reassuring to hear that we aren’t alone to navigate the dangers and challenges of this world. We have a loving shepherd who is looking out for us.

Jesus loves us so much that he goes above and beyond the shepherd’s role as a caretaker. He gives up his own life so our sins can be forgiven and we can receive eternal life. That’s what being a good shepherd means—having such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd will stop at nothing to protect them. The shepherd will lay down his own life so his sheep can have life.

When we hear Jesus’ promise to be our good shepherd, we must not miss his commitment to gather up the sheep that aren’t yet part of his flock. They, too, will listen to Jesus’ voice. Responding to his loving call, they will become part of the one flock that follows Jesus as their good shepherd, their Savior, and their Lord. No matter how many sheep are already jostling for space, there is always room for one more. Just like there is always room at our holy communion table for one more person to eat the bread, drink the wine, and receive the gifts of God’s mercy and grace. We can always squeeze closer to the sheep around us to let one or more sheep enter Jesus’ flock, thankful that the flock is growing and that we get to listen to the loving voice of our good shepherd, together.